



Lynching victim Tabrez Ansari's wife threatens fast-unto-death

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Donald Trump to attend 'Howdy, Modi!' event in Houston

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No breakthrough in Johnson's Brexit talks with EC chief Juncker

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Saha in the spotlight as India-A takes on South Africa-A in second 'Test'

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NEARBY



P.K. Mishra emerges as PMO power centre

Prime Minister's newly elevated Principal Secretary P.K. Mishra has emerged as the most powerful bureaucrat handling the most important matters in the PMO as per the distribution of work among the three top bureaucrats: Dr. Mishra, NSA Ajit Kumar Doval and Principal Adviser P.K. Sinha.

NEWS ► PAGE 12

Petition in NGT against odd-even initiative

A plea challenging the odd-even vehicle rationing scheme announced by the Delhi government was filed at the NGT on Monday. CM Arvind Kejriwal had announced that the scheme will be rolled out between November 4 and 15.

CITY ► PAGE 3

Yogi govt.'s move to shift 17 OBCs to SC list stayed

In a major setback to the Yogi Adityanath government, the Allahabad High Court on Monday stayed its decision to include 17 Other Backward Castes in the Scheduled Castes list.

NORTH ► PAGE 6

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## Govt. data on J&K terror justify lockdown, says SC

Numbers from 1990 present 'formidable reasons'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday found the government's statistics of thousands of instances of death, terror and violence in Jammu and Kashmir from 1990 as "formidable reasons" for the August 5, 2019, lockdown that followed the withdrawal of the special rights and privileges of Kashmiri people with the reading down of Article 370.

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal reeled out numbers to prove that the restrictions stopped the bloodshed in the Valley, and there was no dearth of facilities for ordinary Kashmiris.

He told a Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, that since 1990, 41,866 persons had lost their lives in 71,038 terror incidents. They included 14,038 civilians, 5,292 security personnel and 22,536 terrorists.

"A terrible state of affairs... These are formidable reasons [for the lockdown]... These are security matters," Justice S.A. Bobde, on the Bench, said.

'No bullets fired'

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that "not a bullet has been fired after August 5".

The court directed the Union of India and the Jammu and Kashmir government to file their responses

### Small steps towards normalcy

Restrictions under Section 144 have been removed in:

■ 93 out of 105 (88.57%) police stations of Kashmir division

■ In all 90 police stations (100%) in Jammu division and in seven (100%) police stations of Ladakh division



SOURCE: CENTRE'S REPORT TO THE SUPREME COURT

■ Three months' stock of essential items has been ensured

■ 8,98,050 LPG refills have been home-delivered in the last month across Kashmir Valley

■ 6.46 lakh quintals of rations have been distributed

■ Primary, middle and high schools are functioning normally in Jammu and Ladakh divisions (100%), while in Kashmir 97% of all schools are functioning

### Azad allowed to visit 4 districts

The Supreme Court on Monday allowed senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad to go on a restricted tour of four districts of Jammu and Kashmir "without indulging in any political activity or rally".

► PAGE 13

### Students miss deadlines

The communication blockade has affected students who missed deadlines to fill up forms for courses at foreign universities. A Kashmiri scientist in the U.S. and an Indian scientist are trying to help them.

► PAGE 13

people have access to healthcare facilities and schools, colleges and other educational institutions and public transport function and operate normally".

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

AMIT SHAH REVIEWS SECURITY SITUATION ► PAGE 13

## Drone strikes on Saudi facility lead to jump in crude prices

Supplies to India will not be affected, Saudi Aramco officials tell oil companies

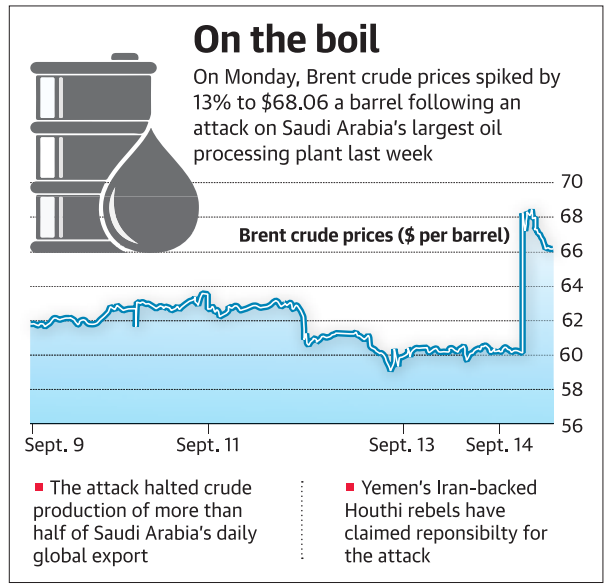
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Drone attacks last week on Saudi Arabia's crude processing facility, the largest in the world, have impacted half of the country's crude oil production and about 5% of the world supply. Following the attacks, on Monday, Global Brent crude futures shot up more than 20% to \$66.91 per barrel.

However, allaying Indian fears, Saudi Aramco officials told oil companies that the attacks would not result in a shortage of supplies, the Ministry of Petroleum has said. Ratings agencies, however, said India would see a rise in prices due to the increase in the risk premium.

"Yesterday [September 15], Saudi ARAMCO officials informed the Indian refiners that there would be no shortage of supplies to them," the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) said in a statement. "MoPNG is closely monitoring the situation in consultation with Indian refiners and Saudi ARAMCO."

MEA condemns attacks  
Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar, in a statement, condemned the drone attacks. "We reiterate our resolve to oppose terrorism in all its forms and manifes-



tations," the statement said.

Saudi Arabia is a major source of oil imports for India, accounting for nearly 18% of the 226 million tonnes of crude the country imported during 2018-19, according to data with the Ministry of Commerce.

India, which imports more than 80% of its crude oil requirement, is particularly vulnerable to geopolitical risks arising out of the oil producing countries.

"While the oil markets await further updates on the resumption of supplies from Saudi Arabia, they will nevertheless be nervous as any

retaliatory measures by Saudi Arabia and its allies will keep the market on tenterhooks," said K. Ravichandran, senior vice-president and group head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA.

"As a result, oil prices should factor in sizeable geopolitical risk premium, which will be negative for Indian consumers," he added. "Nevertheless, this impact is likely to be short-lived as the market will rebalance swiftly once the tensions abate."

U.S. HINTS AT MILITARY RESPONSE ► PAGE 14

STOCKS SLIDE ► PAGE 15

### Petrol price may rise by ₹5

Prices of petroleum products like petrol and diesel are likely to go up by up to ₹5 a litre each over the course of the next few days after international crude oil prices shot up following the drone attack on Saudi Aramco's facility at Abqaiq. Oil marketing companies will have to increase the retail prices in a fortnight. Shares of Indian refiners closed in the red on the BSE. ► PAGE 15

### Rupee tumbles 68 paise

Rise in crude oil prices spooked all the emerging market currencies with rupee being hit the worst, despite the Central bank's intervention that helped the currency to reduce losses. The rupee opened weaker at 71.75 against the dollar, compared with the previous close of 70.93. It hit the day's low of 71.68 before closing at 71.60, down 68 paise. This was the first season of weakening of the domestic unit after eight days of gain. ► PAGE 15

## Farooq detained under PSA, his house declared a jail



Under cover: Security men standing guard outside the house of NC leader Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar on Monday. ■ PTI

Move comes ahead of Vaiko's plea in Supreme Court against his detention

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Hours before the Supreme Court was to hear a petition by Rajya Sabha member Vaiko against the detention of National Conference leader and former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, the Jammu and Kashmir Home Department issued orders to detain the Srinagar Member of Parliament under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for 12 days on Sunday night.

As per the latest order under the PSA, his residence has been declared a subsidiary jail.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that Dr. Abdullah would be detained initially for 12 days, but the period could be extended for a maximum of three months. Any detention beyond three months will have to be ratified by the PSA Advisory

Board. The maximum detention period under the PSA, enacted in 1978, is two years.

Mr. Vaiko last week moved a habeas corpus petition in the court to have the State government produce the former Chief Minister in court and set him free.

The court heard the petition on Monday and issued notice to the Centre and scheduled the hearing for September 30. When the Bench, led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, turned to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for a response, he questioned the locus standi of Mr. Vaiko to file a habeas corpus petition for Dr. Abdullah. This petition was reserved for family members alone, the law officer said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

NC CHIEF CONFINED TO ONE ROOM ► PAGE 13

## Former Andhra Pradesh Speaker found dead

STAFF REPORTER  
HYDERABAD

Former Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly Kodela Siva Prasada Rao was found dead under suspicious circumstances at his residence here on Monday.

Joint Commissioner of Police (West Zone) A.R. Srinivas said the 72-year-old politician was suspected to have committed suicide by hanging from a ceiling fan at his residence in Banjara Hills.

He was taken to Basavarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

"After attending on him for more than an hour, doctors pronounced Rao dead," Mr. Srinivas said, adding that

there was a ligature mark around his neck.

Preliminary inquiries revealed that Mr. Rao's daughter, Vijaya Lakshmi, found him hanging in his bedroom on the first floor of the house. Based on her complaint, the Banjara Hills police registered a case under Section 174 (suspicious death) of the Cr. PC.

"Around 11 a.m., when Vijaya Lakshmi went to the first floor to inform Rao that she was taking her mother, Kodela Sasi-kala, to hospital, she found the doors bolted from inside. She opened the window to find him hanging," the Joint Commissioner said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12  
A SURGEON ► PAGE 8

## Four of Muslim family injured in attack at Aligarh railway station

Likely that altercation could have led to incident, say police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

Four members of a Muslim family were injured when a mob of around a dozen unidentified people attacked them at the Aligarh railway station on Sunday afternoon, allegedly because of their religious identity.

According to an FIR registered by the Government Railway Police (GRP), Sahim Khan, a resident of a village near Kannauj, and his family had just alighted from the Kanpur-Anand Vihar Express at Aligarh at 4.30 p.m. when the group attacked them on the platform. Mr. Khan's nephew, Taufeeq Khan, suffered an injury on the forehead. Their wives



Victim of attack: Taufeeq Khan suffered an injury on the forehead and is admitted to hospital. ■ MANOJ ALIGADI

were also beaten. Station House Officer Yashpal Singh said an FIR was registered against unidentified people. "CCTV footage is being looked into

to identify the culprits. Prima facie, it seems like a case of altercation leading to an attack."

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

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(July, 2019)



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**Samuhik Pashudhan Bima Yojana**  
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IN BRIEF

**Toddler drowns in bucket at home**  
In a freak accident, a one-year-old girl drowned in a bucket of water at her house at Makanpur village in Indirapuram sub-city on Sunday, the police said on Monday. The girl tried to stand up against a bucket filled with water discharged from the AC, while playing, said Indirapuram SHO Deepak Sharma. She fell into the bucket and drowned, the SHO said. She was rushed to a local hospital after her family members spotted her, but was declared brought dead. Her father denied permission for autopsy, the SHO added.

**One arrested for killing gangster in Narela**  
A man has been arrested for allegedly killing gangster Virender Maan in Narela few days back with the help of four others, the police said on Monday. Virender was shot dead on September 8. The assailants shot 40 rounds at the car and 20 bullets hit Virender. The arrested accused, Kapil Mann alias Kallu (25), a resident of Kheda Khurd in Delhi was carrying a reward of ₹1.25 lakh on his arrest.

Dumper truck mows down couple in Capital  
Driver fled spot leaving vehicle behind

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
A 64-year-old motor mechanic and his wife were mowed down on Monday by a dumper truck in north-west Delhi's Jahangirpuri, the police said.  
The deceased were identified as Hukum Chand and his 55-year-old wife Beena Devi, residents of Karan Vihar in Kirari. The incident took place around 6 a.m. Chand and his wife were returning from Himachal Pradesh along with their two children when the incident happened, the police said.  
“They boarded the bus at Outer Ring Road prepaid booth. When they were crossing the road, a dumper truck, which was bearing Haryana’s registration number, hit them,” said Vijayanta Arya, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North West).  
Beena died on the spot and Hukum Chand succumbed to injuries later at Lok Nayak Hospital. The truck driver fled the spot leaving the vehicle behind,

Petition challenging odd-even initiative filed before NGT

CPCB reports show scheme had no impact on ambient air quality in 2016: plea

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
A plea challenging the odd-even vehicle rationing scheme announced by the Delhi government was filed at the National Green Tribunal on Monday.  
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had on September 13 announced that in a bid to curb air pollution in the national capital, the car rationing scheme will be rolled out between November 4 and 15.  
The plea filed by advocate Gaurav Bansal, however, challenged the effectiveness of the scheme, stating that reports from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) showed that the odd-even policy has had no impact on the ambient air quality in the Capital.  
“At a time when the country’s top environmental pollution control boards like the CPCB and Delhi Pollution Control Committee [DPCC] has unequivocally stated that the odd-even policy,



The odd-even scheme was implemented twice in 2016.

**The stand of the government to implement the odd-even policy, merely on a study by people of other countries, is not only unpleasant but also downgrades the reputation of the CPCB and DPCC**

PETITION BY ADVOCATE GAURAV BANSAL

when implemented in the year 2016, failed to curb the air pollution menace, the stand of the government of Delhi to implement the odd-even policy merely on a study done by people of other countries, is not only unpleasant but also downgrades the reputation of the CPCB and the DPCC,” the plea contended.  
Under the vehicle rationing scheme, rolled out in the Capital twice earlier in January and April 2016, odd and

even numbered vehicles are permitted to ply on alternate days.  
The Chief Minister on Friday had said that the odd-even policy was part of the seven-point action plan, ‘Parali Pradushan’ (pollution caused by crop stubble burning), that includes distribution of anti-pollution masks, mechanised sweeping and water sprinkling among other measures.  
Seeking the quashing of the said action plan, the plea

contended that the AAP government’s decision to implement the vehicle rationing scheme was based on unscientific studies.  
“The decision of the Delhi government to implement the odd-even policy in November 2019, ignoring the findings of two top-level institutes of the nation dealing with environmental pollution, has given a wrong message among Indian scientist community and most of them are questioning the use of doing detailed scientific analysis study...” the plea claimed.  
‘Submit study’  
The plea moved in the green panel has sought directions to the Delhi government to submit studies on which the decision of implementation of the odd-even scheme was based.  
The plea further sought constitution of a committee of senior scientists to check the veracity of the study.

‘Reply to plea on environmental labs’

NGT asks CPCB to file report in 1 month

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
The National Green Tribunal has directed the Central Pollution Control Board to respond to a plea which alleged that inadequate monitoring of environmental laboratories were affecting the quality of reports assessed.  
A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel has directed the CPCB to furnish its response within one month before passing further orders.  
“Before we consider this grievance, it will be appropriate that a factual report is furnished in the matter by the CPCB,” the green panel said.  
‘Public health affected’  
The directions came when the NGT was hearing a plea moved by Social Action for Forest and Environment, an NGO, which alleged that poor monitoring of environmental pollution by recognised private laboratories and poor quality of the data



produced were affecting public health.  
Data generated in the country lacks authenticity and are often fudged and manipulated to suit requirements, the plea contended.  
While moving the green panel, the plea sought an increase in the transparency and efficiency in the environment monitoring sector. The plea added that improved efficiency can be achieved through stringent monitoring and regulation of cost as per guidelines laid down by the apex pollution monitoring body.

Ravidas temple plea should be placed before CJJ, says SC

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Monday said a plea seeking permission for reconstruction of Guru Ravidas Temple in Tughlaqabad forest area here, which was demolished by the DDA on the apex court’s direction, should be placed before the Chief Justice of India for “appropriate orders”.  
The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had demolished the temple pursuant to the orders of the apex court, which had earlier observed that “serious breach” had been committed by the Guru Ravidas Jayanti Samaroh Samiti by not vacating the forest area as earlier ordered by the top court.  
When the fresh plea came up before the SC on Monday, it said: “Having regard to the submissions made at the bar, the matter be placed before the Chief Justice of India for appropriate orders for placing this issue before the Bench.”

Two auto drivers hit by speeding car, die

Accused held; victims were waiting for passengers at Swaroop Nagar bus stand

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
Two autorickshaw drivers were killed after a speeding car rammed their vehicles in north Delhi’s Swaroop Nagar on Monday, the police said.  
The victims – Sanjay Sareen (40) and Jaikishan Gupta (36) – were sitting inside their autorickshaws when the incident happened, they said.  
During investigation, it was found that the car was driven by 23-year-old Mohit from Bhairon Enclave in Palam.  
He was returning home from Murlhal after having dinner with his friends at that time. When they reached near Swaroop Nagar bus stand, G.T. Karnal Road, around 1.40 a.m., the car hit the autorickshaws.  
The drivers seated inside were waiting for passengers at the bus stand, said Deputy Commissioner of Police



(Outer North) Gaurav Sharma. Both the injured were rushed to BJRM Hospital and referred to the LNJP Hospital from there. Around 8.30 a.m. on Monday, both the drivers succumbed to injuries during treatment, Mr. Sharma said.  
A case under relevant IPC sections was registered at the Swaroop Nagar police station and Mr. Mohit was apprehended, the police said.

Gupta was the sole breadwinner of his family of five. “He had been driving autorickshaw for the past 15 years and used to live in Swaroop Nagar in rented accommodation with his wife and three children,” said Radha Krishna Gupta, the victim’s elder brother.  
“Four men were injured in the incident. Two of them were discharged from the hospital after treatment. Other auto drivers informed



The incident happened in the early hours of Monday; (above) the offending vehicle.  
\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

me about the incident as I live near the accident spot,” said Sagar Mishra, Gupta’s relative.  
“I spoke to Sareen in the morning and he said everything happened in just a fraction of a second. Jaikishan hailed from Kannauj in U.P. We have donated his eyes,” Mr. Mishra said.  
Blood report awaited  
The police are awaiting Mr. Mohit’s blood report, which would ascertain if he was under the influence of alcohol.

‘Look into plea against illegal encroachments’

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
The National Green Tribunal has directed the Delhi Chief Secretary to look into a plea that sought directions against illegal encroachments and unregulated markets in Samalkha Extension near Kapashera here.  
A Bench headed by NGT chief, Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, directed the Chief Secretary to monitor the action taken by the relevant authority and furnish a report on the same within one month.  
The directions came when the green panel took note of a report filed by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation which stated that the Department of Floods Control of the Delhi government is required to take action in the unauthorised colony.  
“Since illegalities are admitted but responsibility is disowned on the ground that another department is responsible, this aspect needs to be looked into by the Delhi Chief Secretary,” the Bench said.

within one month.  
The directions came when the green panel took note of a report filed by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation which stated that the Department of Floods Control of the Delhi government is required to take action in the unauthorised colony.  
“Since illegalities are admitted but responsibility is disowned on the ground that another department is responsible, this aspect needs to be looked into by the Delhi Chief Secretary,” the Bench said.

Spa parlours in city to be issued advisory

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
Spa parlours in south Delhi may soon be disallowed from carrying out “cross-gender” massage services. South Delhi Municipal Corporation officials were directed to issue an advisory in this regard, on Monday.  
Leader of House, Kamaljeet Sherawat, said that many of these institutions, which carried health trade licenses from the civic body, misused such poperties, suggesting that they ran as brothels.  
To put an end to this, the

spa parlours will be issued an advisoy within a week, she said. The institutions will not be allowed to have “cross-gender” massuses. Those employed will have to be above 18, carry some certificate of specialisation and cutomers will have to submit registered ID cards and the common area will have to have CCTV cameras.  
There are up to 297 such institutions in the SDMC’s jurisdiction, license of which will also be uploaded online to ensure transparency, Ms. Sherawat said.

Make-up artist held after client impersonates elderly to enter IGI

He modified appearances of at least 10 on direction of agents

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
A make-up artist was on Sunday held for allegedly modifying appearances of 10 people, including a 32-year-old man whom he helped impersonate an octogenarian, on the direction of agents involved in forging passports and identities of air passengers, the police said on Monday.  
The accused was identified as Shamsher Singh alias Billu Barber (42), a resident of Rohini.  
The police said that Mr. Shamsher was arrested based on the disclosure made by Jayesh Patel, who disguised as an 81-year-old man. Mr. Patel was nabbed

at Indira Gandhi International Airport on September 8, they said.  
Mr. Patel, a resident of Ahmedabad, wanted to go to the US for a job. He thought he might not be granted visa and therefore, with the help of agents, planned to leave the country by impersonating octogenarian Amrik Singh, a senior police official said.  
The accused, disguised as an old person, managed to get the immigration clearance, the official added.  
During the course of investigation, Mr. Patel disclosed that one make-up artist in Patel Nagar helped him with his disguise in order to conceal his real identity,

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Airport) Sanjay Bhatia said.  
On Sunday, the make-up artist was apprehended and cosmetics used for hair-dyeing were recovered from his shop, the officer said.  
During interrogation, Mr. Shamsher said that in order to make quick money, he had agreed to modify appearances of 10 people, including two women, on the direction of the agents, the officer added.  
He led the team to his shop where cosmetics and material used for colouring hair were recovered, the police said, adding that further investigation into the matter is on.

Transport operators’ unions protest against govt. policies

They raise voice against increase in penalties, harassment by police and RTOs

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI  
Several unions of transport operators on Monday converged at Jantar Mantar to protest against a slew of recent government policies which, they alleged, were not only hurting their business but also had the potential to drive them out of work



Operators and drivers protesting at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Monday. \*SANDEEP SAXENA

for good.  
The protest was held under the banner of the United Front of Transporters Association (UFTA) which is a

joint front of transport associations and unions across all segments from Delhi-NCR.  
“More than 8,000 opera-

tors and drivers from various segments and regions of Delhi NCR have converged at Jantar Mantar today to vent out their anger against the exorbitant increase in penalties and collateral corruption, harassment and extortion by the police, RTOs and other authorities,” the association said in a statement.  
The association added that transport operators who participated in the protest said they would observe a day-long strike to highlight the issues concerning them across Delhi and the NCR on Thursday.

In addition to steep fines introduced after the enforcement of the amended Motor Vehicles Act, the association said, transport operators were also against similar policies enacted by the Centre recently.  
These, it said, include a clarification on limiting of the liability of the insurer under third party insurance, revocation of amendment to Section 44AE of the IT Act and social security schemes for drivers that will be presented as a memorandum to the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways.

THE HINDU PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ

ANNUAL AWARDS AND HONOURS CEREMONY

Billabong High International School, Noida, hosted their Annual Awards and Honours Ceremony recently. The learners were awarded with certificates by the Principal, Ms. Sharmila Chatterjee, to recognise and encourage their talent.

FOUNDER'S DAY

Sachdeva Public School, Rohini, celebrated their 27<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day, Independence Day and Raksha Bandhan on 14<sup>th</sup> August. The function was presided over by the Chairman Shri S. K. Sachdeva, Director Sanjay Sachdeva and members of the Managing Committee. The cultural programmes were performed by the students. The programme started with a welcome song. Activities like dances and music were performed.

INTERACT CLUB INSTALLATION CEREMONY

M L Khanna DAV Public School, Dwarka, conducted the installation ceremony of their Interact Club. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Rtn. Prashant Sehgal, Director, New Generations, R.I. Dist. 3011. The Guests of Honour were Rtn. Mridula Khatri, District Interact Chair, R.I. Dist. 3011 and Rtn. Vipin Jain, President, Rotary Club of Delhi Restoring Smiles. Other dignitaries were also present for the occasion. The celebration began with an invocation dance, followed by lighting of the ceremonial lamp. Principal, Ms. Monika Mehan, was presented Interact Club Charter by Rtn. Vipin Jain, President, Rotary Club of Delhi Restoring Smiles.

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Handphone: +91 98100 89457/Email: kapil.nagar@thehindu.co.in



Court extends  
Ratul Puri’s  
custody

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday extended the Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody of Ratul Puri for three more days in a money laundering case related to the ₹3,600-crore VVIP chopper deal.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar allowed the ED to interrogate Mr. Puri for three more days after it submitted that it was in the process of retrieving papers from the hard discs recovered from the accused’s company, the Hindustan Power Projects. The agency had recovered the discs during a week-long raid.

Special Public Prosecutor N.K. Matta submitted that the raid concluded on September 14. Thereafter, the accused had been confronted with some documents having references to money transactions. More such documents were required to be shown to the accused and pleaded for extension.

CPWD reduces earnest money in  
Central Vista redevelopment plan

Agency does not clarify which buildings on the 3-km stretch will be demolished

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

Replying to concerns raised by architects who participated in a pre-bid meeting for its ambitious redevelopment plan for Central Vista and Parliament last week, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has reduced the earnest money required from ₹50 lakh to ₹25 lakh.

Pre-bid meeting

However, the construction agency of the Central government did not clarify which buildings on the 3-km stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan till India Gate would be demolished and which would be retrofitted, as asked during the pre-bid meeting, according to the CPWD’s reply on September 14.

On September 13, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister of State (Indepen-



The CPWD had floated a request for proposal from design and architecture firms on September 2 seeking plans for the redevelopment project. • FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

dent charge) Hardeep Puri said the government was planning on redeveloping the Central Vista, the Parliament and government offices on the 3-km stretch. The project would be completed by 2024, he said. The CPWD had floated a request for proposal from design and architecture firms on September 2 seeking plans for development or redevelopment of

Central Vista, Parliament and a common Central Secretariat.

In response to a query about which buildings needed to be demolished and which would be retrofitted, the CPWD wrote: “All such issues will be analysed and proposed by the consultant/firm for decision. [sic].”

Sources in the Ministry said the decision on which of

the historic buildings would be razed would be taken after seeing the design and masterplan for the area submitted by bidders.

The CPWD, however, did issue a corrigendum reducing the earnest money to be deposited for the bid from ₹50 lakh to ₹25 lakh and changing the deadline for bids from September 23 to September 30.

DDC for accelerating mobility  
transition to e-vehicles in city

‘₹6,000 cr. would be saved if 25% vehicles turn electric by 2023’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A report recommending a single-window clearance system for registering electric vehicles in the Capital among other suggestions was submitted to Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot here on Monday, the government said in a statement.

The report, titled ‘Accelerating Delhi’s Mobility Transition: Insights from the Delhi Urban Mobility Lab’, has been prepared by the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi and the Rocky Mountain Institute and proposes 10 actionable solutions to accelerate mobility transition to e-vehicles in the city.

The report also states that ₹6,000 crore would be saved if the target for registration of 25% e-vehicles of all registrations was met by 2023 as per Delhi’s draft electric vehicle policy. The policy is likely to be notified by the Delhi government soon.



An electric vehicle charging point in the Capital. •

“This report will become an important reference point for all our agencies on the various reforms needed to ensure a successful transition to electric vehicles,” Mr. Gahlot was quoted as having said. The report is based on discussions and suggestions received at the Mobility Lab workshop hosted by DDC and Rocky Mountain Institute in Delhi on June 26-27.

Simpler processes

According to the statement, the report proposed the creation of a single-window clearance system that provides clearer and simpler processes for both register-

ing and permitting electric vehicles, commissioning of charging and battery swapping infrastructure and a government-led interest rate subvention scheme for attractive financing of e-vehicles.

“Investing in clean mobility is investing in the health of people of Delhi and that is why the government is keen on playing a significant role in catalysing and easing transition to electric mobility in the city,” said DDC chairman Jasmine Shah.

“The Delhi government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, is keen to work with all stakeholders to implement solutions that can make Delhi the electric vehicle capital of India,” Mr. Shah said.

During their lifespan, these EVs are estimated to save approximately ₹6,000 crore expenditure on fossil fuel imports and 4.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, the report noted.

Magic moment



The newly installed fountains at Safdarjung Tomb in the Capital on Monday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Extortion racket run by 43-year-old  
woman busted, three arrested

They were nabbed while trying to extort money from jeweller

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Three persons were arrested after an extortion racket, run by a 43-year-old woman, was busted on Monday, the police said. The woman used to impersonate a Crime Branch officer to intimidate businessmen.

The arrested were identified as Poonam Sethi, Deepak Kumar, and his wife, Jyoti. Sethi was the kingpin, said DCP (North-West) Vijayanta Arya.

“The accused were caught when they were trying to extort ₹5 lakh from a jeweller in north-west Delhi’s Pitampura on Sunday,” said Ms. Arya.

The police said that they have recovered an ID card with “Police Dost” printed

on its front and “press” on its backside and another ID card with national crime intelligence bureau printed on it from the possession of the accused.

Jobless couple

“The arrested couple was jobless and were in dire need of money. Through a common contact, they got in touch with Sethi who lured them into the racket. The couple live in Ghaziabad. We are getting details of those who were targeted by the accused,” said Ms. Arya.

The police said that on Sunday, a PCR call was received from a jeweller regarding a few people who had come to his office in Pitampura and were trying to extort money by impersonating Crime Branch officers.

“Barged into shop”

“The accused posing as police officers barged into the shop and claimed that the jeweller has forged his sales records and demanded ₹5 lakh to settle the matter or they will book him for cheating and forgery. When the jeweller asked them to show their ID cards, the trio started negotiating and offered him to settle the matter by paying ₹1 lakh,” said Ms. Arya.

The jeweller got suspicious and informed the police about it. The police reached the shop and nabbed them for further investigation. Interrogation is under way, said the officer.

Woman jumps  
in front of  
metro, dies

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A woman jumped in front of a train at GTB Nagar metro station disrupting services on the Yellow Line for over 10 minutes, the police said on Monday.

Azadpur Metro police station received information about the incident at 8.45 a.m. The woman, a resident of Shakti Nagar, was rushed to Bara Hindu Rao Hospital where doctors declared her brought dead.

No note was recovered, the police said. A mobile number was found from her purse and the police were trying to locate her family.

*Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday (10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)*

HC grants bail  
to AAP MLA  
Som Dutt in  
assault case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday granted bail to AAP MLA Som Dutt, who was recently taken into custody to serve a six-month jail term for assaulting a man with a baseball bat during campaigning for 2015 Assembly elections.

Justice Suresh Kait also sought response of the State on the plea of Mr. Dutt, lodged in Rohini jail here, challenging the trial court’s verdict convicting and sentencing him in the case. The High Court listed the matter for hearing on October 30.

Senior advocate Vikas Pahlwa and lawyer R. Arunadhri Iyer contended that the entire case against the legislator is “false” and there are “discrepancies” in the medical record of the man who had claimed that he was assaulted by the MLA.

A sessions court had on September 12 dismissed the AAP leader’s plea challenging a magisterial court’s order convicting and sentencing him in the case.

The magisterial court had on July 4 sentenced Mr. Dutt to a six-month jail term and also imposed a fine of ₹2 lakh on him. He is a public representative and has committed the offence knowing its gravity and consequences, the trial court had said. It had noted that the incident did not take place on the spur of the moment but was a premeditated assault by a baseball bat.

‘AAP govt. schemes save  
people from slowdown’

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Delhi is not affected much by the economic slowdown because of different schemes by the AAP government.

Addressing traders on Sunday, he said: “...the government has provided a lot of support to the people of Delhi so that they do not feel the pinch of the slowdown

as much. For instance, we waived the electricity bills up to 200 units. We have provided free water and waived the old water bills. Now, travelling in a bus will also be free for women.”

He appealed the Central government to take all necessary steps to improve the economy.

“We have always taken care of the interests of the traders,” he said.

People praise roads, sewer, schools: AAP

Party gears up for Assembly polls, holds outreach programme

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Monday said that people praised the Delhi government’s works in building roads, sewers, schools and mohalla clinics, during ‘Jan Samvaad Yatra’, a public outreach programme conducted by the AAP as it gears up for the Assembly election.

Talking on health care,

Delhi unit chief Gopal Rai explained that the Delhi government provides free treatment for accident cases.

“He explained that now these free treatments are not only happening in government hospitals but also in private hospitals. All the expenses are taken care by the Delhi government and also an award is given to people who help an accident-prone

victim reach the hospital,” an official statement said.

The yatra is being organised across Delhi under the leadership of Mr. Rai and was held in Jangpura constituency on Monday.

The meeting, attended by residents, MLA Praveen Kumar and other party workers, focused on work done in Jangpura in the last four and a half years by the AAP government.

‘Society needs to resist the carcinogen of anxiety’

In an effort to destigmatise mental health, Deepika Padukone launches her first lecture series

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Actress Deepika Padukone, founder of the Live Love Laugh Foundation (LLL), launched her first lecture series to discuss the stigma surrounding mental health here on Sunday.

Padma Shri awardee, haematologist and oncologist Siddhartha Mukherjee, who is also an assistant professor of medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center was the speaker at the event.

Three forces

Dr. Mukherjee, who won Pulitzer Prize for his book *The Emperor Of All Maladies*, drew parallels between the stigma that cancer faced in 1950s and that mental health faces today. He said there were three forces “that took a disease (cancer) that was stuffed in the back of hospitals and made it the



Padma Shri awardee, haematologist and oncologist Siddhartha Mukherjee with actress Deepika Padukone at the inaugural edition of the lecture series. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

most prominent word in the history of illness”.

The first force, he said, was political, involving policymakers and those in regulatory positions, propelled by health advocate Mary Laskar, who “took on the job of helping launch (President) Nixon’s war on cancer”. It culminated in the inauguration of the National Cancer Institute. Dr.

Mukherjee suggested a similar model for mental health in the country.

The second force was social, with advocates working towards destigmatising the disease, resulting in the removal of the blame and victimhood that is often attached to diseases that evoke terror. Women like Rose Kushner, Betty Ford, and ‘Happy’ Rockefeller, he said, played

an important part in the movement, helping the focus to shift to “empathy, a desire to relieve suffering, and a want to cure and to treat”.

The final set of forces were biological – genetic and pharmaceutical efforts from the medical community and entrepreneurs “to take cancer and understand its molecular mechanism”. This understanding of what cancer was – a mutation in cells – helped in the development of the first chemical therapies. As the biological understanding of mental illness changes, so will the stigma attached to it. “We now know that much of mental illness is a result of the cooperation of genetics and the environment,” said Dr. Mukherjee.

He said that there was a need to resist “the carcinogen of anxiety” that seems to pervade our

society today, much like we have resisted other carcinogens like cigarette smoking.

The talk was followed by a discussion with Ms. Padukone, who said in an interview that the idea of the lecture series “is to have people who understand the importance of mental health and mental illness and also people who are in a place to shape that conversation”.

Anna Chandy, a psychologist and chairperson of the board of trustees, LLL, said, “Unless you have someone in family or you have been touched by it, stigma of mental illness is not something you can easily relate to.”

The LLLF is a charitable trust that was set up in 2015 to give hope to persons experiencing stress, anxiety and depression. Ms. Padukone had suffered from mental health illness in the past.

DCW for sex reassignment  
surgeries in govt. hospitals

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal on Monday wrote to the Centre and the Delhi government seeking the provision of sex reassignment surgeries in government hospitals.

In the letter to the Union and Delhi health secretaries, Ms. Maliwal said that the facility was available only in a few hospitals in the Capital which led to delays in the surgeries.

“The DCW had recently established a transgender cell to look into the complaints of violence, abuse, harassment and discrimination faced by the transgender community. After several rounds of community

meetings of the cell, one of the most common issue that was brought to the notice of the Commission was a lack of proper government-sponsored sex reassignment surgeries in Delhi,” read a statement issued by the women’s commission.

Stating that free medical services should be provided, Ms. Maliwal said, “There are many transgenders in the Capital who suffer innumerable problems due to the lack of sex reassignment surgeries. Access to free and proper medical services is their right and must be guaranteed by the State. I appeal to the Centre and State governments to sex reassignment surgeries in all their hospitals to cater to the needs of the transgenders.”

Students, teachers from  
Australia visit city school

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Twenty students and four teachers from Australia visited Springdales School, Pusa Road under the Victorian Young Leaders (VYL), which allows students from Melbourne and Victoria to attend a school in India.

The visit comprises three weeks of intercultural learning which allows students to explore India’s science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) industries and discover traditional to the modern culture, a representative of Springdales School said.

James Merlino, deputy premier of Victoria, urged the young Australians to



(Second from right) Deputy premier of Victoria James Merlino and Springdales School principal Ameeta M. Wattal with delegates. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

work hard, soak up the culture and share their experiences back home.

As a part of the visit, the Australian delegation was familiarised themselves with infrastructural facilities and the teaching-learning process of CBSE schools.



Malaria cases higher than last year: report

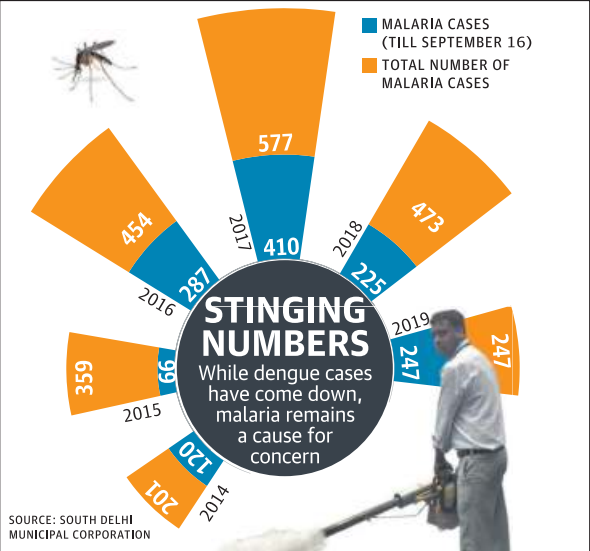
Around 100 cases reported in last two weeks, say civic bodies

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI
The number of malaria cases reported till September 16 this year is higher than those recorded last year, as per data released by the Delhi municipal corporations.
The data reveal that 247 cases of malaria were reported this year till the second week of September. Nearly 100 cases were reported in the past two weeks.
During the same period in 2018, there were 225 cases; 410 in 2017; 286 in 2016; 66 in 2015; and 120 in 2014.

Main months
Additionally, a review of data since 2014 shows that a majority of cases of vector-borne diseases are reported in the months of September to December.
For instance, last year, out of 3,436 cases of vector-borne diseases recorded in Delhi, 86.3% (2,965 cases) were reported between September and December.

Dengue cases
The number of cases of dengue till September 16 this year stand at 171.
Out of these, up to 80 cases were reported in the last two weeks.
The lowest number of dengue cases in the same period was recorded in 2014 at 55. The highest number of dengue cases in the last five years was reported in 2015 at 15,867.

Chikungunya cases
The number of cases of chikungunya is also starting to pick up with 60 cases reported so far this year. Out of these, around 30 were recorded in the last two weeks.
Meanwhile, domestic breeder checkers (DBC) of the three municipal corpora-



tions called off their strike after receiving assurances that contract workers would be made permanent after reviewing the vacant posts, said president of Anti Malaria Unity Workers Union Devanand Sharma.
Committees have been formed in this regard in all three unions, he added.
The DBCs are responsible for checking the prevalence of breeding conditions across the city.
So far, the civic bodies have reported that officials concerned have visited up to 1.19 lakh houses.
The South Delhi Municipal Corporation Standing Committee also passed a resolution recommending the creation of additional posts, added benefits and a raise in the salary of DBC workers.
Moving the motion, Leader of SDMC House Kamaljeet Sherawat said that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who had been praising the drop in the number of dengue cases, a consequence of the work done by DBC workers, would surely provide funding for the same.

Kejriwal invites Vardhan to join anti-dengue campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday invited Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan to participate in the government's anti-dengue campaign and make it a "huge success".
"I invite you and all Ministers at the Centre to participate in this campaign. Your participation will inspire many others," Mr. Kejriwal wrote.
The government had directed its employees to check their homes at 10 a.m. every Sunday and their offices at 11 a.m. every Friday for stagnant water, he said. Mr. Kejriwal also urged the Minister to direct Central government employees to participate in the government's 10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute campaign.

Great Lakes institute wins Delhi leg of BLoC Boardroom Challenge

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A team from Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurugram campus, won the Delhi leg of the BLoC Boardroom Challenge on Monday.
The runners-up was a team from BIMTECH, Delhi. The other teams in the fray were from Great Lakes, BIMTECH and Institute of Management Studies, BHU.
The team comprising Hari Vignesh, Abhishek Shama, Sai Prathyusha and Archana Mishra took the top honours in presenting



Participants of BLoC Boardroom Challenge in the city on Monday.

to a jury a business strategy for a surfactants company to regain its growth. The runners-up from BIMTECH were Shubham Raj Devoliya, Vivek Kumar Singh and

Shubham Sureka.
Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Funds is the sponsor of the event. The event is powered by Frederique Constant. Vizag Steel Plant and One Crest are the associate sponsors.
The jury comprised K.S. Rao, head, investor education, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Ltd; Vishwadeep Kulla of Brand Vectors; Prof. Sam Placid of Great Lakes and Jagatjit Singh, a management consultant.
Mr. Rao gave away the mementos to the runners-up and the winning team.

Sisodia plans Olympiad Cell

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday asked education officials to plan for an Olympiad Cell, which would identify students in the age group of 14-18 to participate in Olympiads.
Mr. Sisodia interacted with the 20 students of various Delhi government schools who participated in Olympiad of Metropolis conducted in Moscow this year. Harshita and Satyam became the first students from any government school of India to win a medal at Moscow.

THE HINDU
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IIT-Delhi to conduct JEE (Advanced) 2020 examination on May 17

For the first time, the exam will also be held in the U.S.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi announced on Monday that it will be organising the Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced) in 2020 for admissions in 23 IITs across India.
The decision was taken at a meeting of the IIT Joint Admission Board (JAB) held on Sunday, the institute said, adding that the IIT JEE (Advanced) 2020 will be conducted on May 17.
The IIT JAB also decided to hold the JEE (Advanced) 2020 for the first time in the U.S. where an examination centre will be set up in San



Francisco. IIT-Delhi director V. Ramgopal Rao said: "IITs have taken a conscious decision to encourage cultural diversity on their campuses. JEE exam is now conducted in five countries worldwide and we have added USA to this list. The U.S. has benefited significantly by the presence of a large number of IIT alumni there."
The institute stated that

the JAB has decided to shortlist 2.5 lakh students from JEE (Main) 2020 to appear for JEE (Advanced) 2020.
"On May 17, 2020, the first paper of JEE (Advanced) will start at 9.00 a.m. and end at 12 noon. The second paper will be conducted from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Earlier, it used to start at 2 p.m. This has been changed to allow students, especially the PwD candidates, more time between the two papers. This will also help in biometric verification at the centers in timely manner," said Siddharth Pandey, organizing chairman, JEE (Advanced) 2020.

Table with 2 columns: Location and Air quality index. Locations include Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida, Greater Noida. Air quality index ranges from 105 to 165.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: The Raza Foundation presents the 5th V.S. Gaitonde Memorial Lecture, "Our Moderns" by Geeta Kapur, art historian and curator. Chair: Ashok Valpey, poet & art administrator at India Habitat Centre, 7 p.m.
Dance: Kathak duet by Vasu Krishna Maharaj and Vaibhav Krishna Maharaj at The Stein Auditorium, IHC, 7 p.m.
Exhibition: A solo painting exhibition by Jaskirat Singh and Sunil Chopra at Convention Centre Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Exhibition: "Wayside Flowers, Studies" in watercolour by Chandrakanta Das from Lucknow at Art Gallery, Annex Building, India International Centre (IIC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Exhibition: "Rumination of An Unfettered Mind", a solo show by Laxmi Gupta at Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

Table with 2 columns: Day and Time. Days include Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Times include 06:07, 20:26, 06:07, 21:00, 06:08, 21:37.

Table with 2 columns: Location and Weather. Locations include Delhi City, Safdarjung, Palam. Weather includes max, min, and conditions.

Delhi Palam Today
36°C Comfortable morning with winds would turn into a very warm day. Very light rain may occur in pockets.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C Fall in day temperature. Light spell of rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur over few area.

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DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
F-17, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110032
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
Ph. No.: 011-22309220 Email-Id: dirdhs@nic.in
The Director General Health Services, Directorate General of Health Services, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of NCT of Delhi invites online tenders from eligible service providers for Outsourcing of laboratory diagnostic services (Non radiological) in AAMC, Polyclinics and Mobile Health Camps.
Tender ID: 2019\_DHS\_178837\_1
Tender description: Start date/time for downloading of tender: 26/08/2019 from 6:00 PM
Date/time of Pre-Bid Meeting: 02-09-19 at 3:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date/time: 07/09/2019 at 10:00 AM
Last date/time for downloading of tender: 30/09/2019 up to 3:00 PM
Last date/time of submission of EMD and completed bids: 30/09/2019 up to 3:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date/time: 30/09/2019 up to 3:00 PM
Online opening of tender: 30/09/2019 up to 3:00 PM
It is informed that any corrigendum issued, if any, shall be published on e-procurement web portal only. Further the Tenderer / Bidder may see the details of Tender / EMD / Security deposit etc. of the Tender Enquiry Documents from the website https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
Sd/- DGHS
DIP/Shabdarth/0679/19-20

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
Tender Notice
E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: 15/P-69/2019-20/TMC/HQ/NCR/ALD
Date: 09.09.2019
On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Engineer, North Central Railway, Subedarganj, Allahabad-211015 invites the following E-Procurement Tender: (The complete information along with tender document of this E-Procurement Tender are available in website on www.ireps.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs. of the due date of tender opening).
Tender No. Brief Description Quantity Tender Rate
TMC 00631920 Set of Cylindrical Raoller Bearing Details of Description, make and quantity as per tender document (Acceptable Make: Plasser, HMT, SKF, FAG & Koyo only) As per Section IV of tender document 4052291/-
Earnest Money: ₹ 81100/- Date of opening: 09.10.2019 Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 2. Following condition has been included in Tender Document vide Railway Board Letter No. 2001/RS(g)/779/7 Pt. 1 dated 29.06.2017. "Whenever tender is floated with purchase restriction from sources approved by nominated authorities and there exists a suspected cartel situation by approved sources or the rates available from approved/sources are adjudged unreasonably high, despite fair efforts as permissible, the purchaser reserves the right to place order on firms outside the approved vendors list without any restrictions". 3. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Class III digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 4. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 5. Allocation for Security deposit and Earnest money is "Deposit Misc stores 00844523". 6. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 1318/19(I)
North central railways @ CPRONCR

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi-834008
(Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities and OBC Welfare Department)
Phone No. 0651-2551824, E-mail-tri.directorate@gmail.com/dir-triran@gov.in
Ref. no.1073 Ranchi, Dated 13.09.2019
Expression of Interest
Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities (all colleges)/Department of Universities /Govt. Organization for undertaking a Research Project of TRI, Ranchi during the year 2018-2020:
TOPIC: TAMAR REVOLT /FROM YEAR 1767 to SARDARI MOVEMENT: ARCHIVAL, NON ARCHIVAL AND ORAL SOURCES BASED COMPILATION AND ANALYSIS
Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) duly forwarded by registrar of universities {applicable Universities (all colleges)/Department of Universities only} along with technical bid giving relevant details of the organization necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 10/10/2019 by 4.30 P.M. The price should be all inclusive of (all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open ended.
The intending agencies may submit their bid in sealed envelope on or before the due date. Technical proposal should be sealed in a separate envelope clearly marked in BOLD "A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR TOPIC: TAMAR REVOLT /FROM YEAR 1767 to SARDARI MOVEMENT: ARCHIVAL, NON ARCHIVAL AND ORAL SOURCES BASED COMPILATION AND ANALYSIS (Please specify name of the concerned work)" written on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of tender document sent by post. Technical Bid will be opened on 16/10/2019 in the office of the Director, TRI, Ranchi.
Only those agencies which fulfill technical criteria will be considered for presentation of project.
Terms of Reference (ToR) and other details can be obtained from the office of the TRI on any working day during office hour to meet concerned Nodal person and the same can also be downloaded from the website प्रवक्ताकीर्तिदण्डयद or through E-mail tri.directorate@gmail.com by specifying the topic & details of Institution / Organization Interested.
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PR216865 Welfare(19-20)D बूंद - बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi
Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities and OBC Welfare Department
Ref no.1074Ranchi, Dated 13.09.2019
Expression of Interest
Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities (all colleges)/ Department of Universities/ Govt. Organization/ Educational Institute/ Research Institute/ NGOs for undertaking a Research Project of TRI, Ranchi during the year 2019-20:
TOPIC: Study of Megalithic cultures in Jharkhand.
Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) duly forwarded by registrar of universities {applicable Universities (all colleges)/ Department of Universities only} along with technical bid giving relevant details of the organization necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 10/10/2019 till 4.00 PM. The price should be all inclusive of (all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open ended.
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OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD (R&B) CONST. DIV. NO. II, JAMMU
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 70 of 2019-2020/Div-2 Dated 09-09-2019
Executive Engineer Pw (R&B) Construction Division No. II, Jammu Department Jammu on behalf of Governor of J&K State, invite tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt, upto 1800 Hrs on 19-09-2019 for the following work
S. NO Name of Work Name of Division Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs) Cost of document (in Rs.) Earnest Money (in Rs.) Time Allowed for completion Time and date of opening of tender Class of Contractor
1 Construction of pre-fabricated structure at 1st Floor near Election Cell in D.C. Office Complex Jammu. PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu 10.50 600 21000 45 Days 20-09-2019 1400 hours "A, B, C & D"
2 Improvement / Upgd. of Dhok. Waziran Road by way extension of hume pipe Culvert. PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu 6.86 600 13720 01 Month 20-09-2019 1400 hours "A, B, C & D"
3 Construction of Road Bajajla to Panjbari by way of Drain, WBM Gr-II, WBM Gr-III, Rowall and laying of crates. PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu 42.92 600 85840 03 Month 20-09-2019 1400 hours "A & B, C"
4 Providing and Laying of 20 mm thick premix carpet and WBM Gr-III on Jindrah Cee Gala Road Km 2nd RD (400-450), Km 3rd RD (550-560) and Km 4th (425-1000) (Left out stretches). PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu 12.41 600 24820 1 1/2 Month 20-09-2019 1400 hours "A, B, C & D"
5 Construction of Road from Badsoo to Palli by way of Construction of 1.0 mtr dia Hume Pipe Culvert Breast Wall in Km 1st RD (0-275). PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu 12.33 600 12330 2 Month 20-09-2019 1400 hours self Help Group
1 Date of Publishing from 13-09-2019
2 The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in from on 13-09-2019 to 19-09-2019 (1800 Hrs).
3 Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 13-09-2019 to 19-09-2019 upto (1800 Hrs). The bids received will be opened at (1400 Hrs) on 20-09-2019 on line.
Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu
DIP/J-2681-P

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
E- Procurement Tender Notice
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 16/P-69/2019-20/TMC/HQ/NCR/ALD Date: 12.09.2019
On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Engineer, North Central Railway, Subedarganj, Allahabad-211015 invites the following E-Procurement Tenders. (The complete information along with tender document of this E-Procurement Tender are available in website on www.ireps.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs of the due date of tender opening.)
SN Tender No. Brief Description Quantity Tender Value Earnest Money
1 TMC 00641920 Various types of Bearing. Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. As per Section IV of tender document 8758651/- 175200/- (Acceptable Make: Plasser, HMT, SKF, FAG, Koyo, INA, IKO, Elgis & Mayfield, [AEC & ZWZ China Developmental order] only)
2 TMC 00651920 Various types of bolt hex. Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. (Acceptable Make: TVS, LPS, Unbrako only) -Do- 299565/- (Exempted)
3 TMC 00661920 Hydraulic 4 Way valve. Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. (Acceptable Make: Plasser, Rexroth, Veljan Denison only) -Do- 150769/- (Exempted)
4 TMC 00671920 Squeezing Cylinder small (female) complete. 06 Nos. 368160/- (Exempted) Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. (Acceptable Make: Plasser, or Equivalent)
5 TMC 00681920 Set of Tamping Arm/Tool holder and swivel bearing. Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. (Acceptable Make: Plasser, or Equivalent) -Do- 13048439/- 261000/-
6 TMC 00691920 Stainless steel bridged Teflon hose Assembly Details of description, make and quantity as per tender document. (Acceptable Make: Plasser, or Equivalent) -Do- 217999/- (Exempted)
Date of opening: 16.10.2019 Note:- 1.The complete information along with Tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available on website www.ireps.gov.in Up to 15:00 hrs. On the due date of tender opening. 2.Following condition has been included in Tender Document vide Railway Board Letter No. 2001/RS(g)/779/7 Pt-1 Dated 29.06.2017 "Whenever tender is floated with purchase restriction from sources approved by nominated authorities and there exists a suspected cartel situation by approved sources or the rates available from approved/sources are adjudged unreasonably high, despite fair efforts as permissible, the purchaser reserves the right to place order on firms outside the approved vendors list, without any restriction". 3. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 4. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 5. Allocation for Security deposit and Earnest money is "Deposit Misc stores 00844523". 6. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 1340/19(I)
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Dalit man burnt alive in U.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HARDOI (U.P.)

A 20-year-old Dalit man was allegedly burnt alive over his relationship with a woman from another caste, a killing that his relatives said also led to his mother's death.

According to the police, the suspected case of honour killing occurred at Bhadesa in Hardoi district on Saturday.

Monu was beaten up, kept hostage in a house and set ablaze, Superintendent of Police Alok Priyadarshi said.

Locals rushed to the spot on hearing his cries and took him to a local

hospital. He was referred to a Lucknow hospital but succumbed to injuries on the way on Sunday, Mr. Priyadarshi said.

Mother dies of shock

A relative said Monu's mother died of shock after hearing the news.

According to the SP, locals said Monu was in a relationship with a girl and had gone to meet her when the incident took place.

An FIR has been filed against five people, including two family members and two neighbours of the girl, the SP said, adding that an investigation is on.

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Director Transport  
U.T., Chandigarh

High Court stays Yogi govt.'s  
move to shift 17 OBCs to SC list

It was an apparent bid to woo communities ahead of bypolls

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW

In a major setback to the Yogi Adityanath government, the Allahabad High Court on Monday stayed its decision to include 17 Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the Scheduled Castes (SC) list.

The court's decision came on a petition filed by social activist Gorakh Prasad.

On June 24, the State government had directed District Magistrates and Commissioners to issue Scheduled Caste certificates to 17 OBCs – Kashyap, Rajbhar, Dhivar, Bind, Kumhar, Kahar, Kewat, Nishad, Bhar, Mallah, Prajapati, Dhimar, Batham, Turha, Godia, Manjhi and Machua.

The government's move was apparently aimed at wooing these communities ahead of by-elections to 12 Assembly seats.

The decision, incidentally,



U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath

had been criticised even by the BJP-led Central government, with Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot telling the Rajya Sabha on July 2 that the move was not in accordance with the Constitution.

Mr. Gehlot had said that if the U.P. government wanted to go ahead with its proposal, it should follow procedure and

send a proposal to the Centre.

BSP chief Mayawati had also slammed the move as "unconstitutional" and called it "politically motivated".

"These castes will no longer get benefits of quota under the OBC category. They will be treated as general castes. It is clear that Yogi government has issued this order to deceive these castes," Ms. Mayawati had said.

SP's 2005 attempt

The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh is not the first to move the 17 OBCs to the SC list. In 2005, the then Mulayam Singh Yadav government passed the first order to include 11 of these castes in the SC list but the order was stayed and the proposal sent to the Centre.

Subsequently, the BSP government of Mayawati quashed the notification.

Seven-year jail term for  
two in Vyapam case

Rakesh Patel, Tarun Usare also fined

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A special CBI court on Monday sentenced two candidates to rigorous imprisonment for seven years over their involvement in the Vyapam case, related to the recruitment scam in Madhya Pradesh.

The Vyapam cases special judge in Bhopal sentenced Rakesh Patel and Tarun Usare – who had applied for the posts of Police Assistant Sub-Inspector and Subedar examination-2013 – to seven years' rigorous imprisonment, along with fines ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹3,000, a CBI official said in a statement.

The CBI had registered the case on the orders of the Supreme Court and taken over the investigation from the Madhya Pradesh police.

The case was earlier re-

gistered on the allegations of criminal conspiracy in the theft of and manipulation in OMR answer sheets in connection with the examination for the posts conducted by Vyapam – Vyavsayik Pariksha Mandal (Professional Examination Board) – on June 9, 2013.

Answer sheets missing

It was alleged that when the envelopes containing the OMR answer sheets were opened on June 15, 2013, in the computer section of Vyapam for scanning, the officials found that two answer sheets were missing from the respective envelopes.

It was further revealed that the OMR answer sheets were stolen by two junior employees in connivance with a security guard for manipulating them.

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**ANNU ARORA (Advocate)**  
Ch.No. M-10, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi



# Seat-sharing deal may derail over Aarey

While Sena chief says project may meet same fate as Nanar oil refinery, CM claims talks in last stage

**SHARAD VYAS**  
MUMBAI

Seat-sharing talks between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena were threatening to go off track after Uddhav Thackeray on Monday declared that the Metro 3 car shed project at Aarey colony will meet the same fate as the Nanar oil refinery project, which the Maharashtra government scrapped a few months ago.

The statement came on a day the BJP's national joint secretary V. Satish attended the final leg of the party's seat-sharing talks with the Shiv Sena in the city, while Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis confirmed talks were in the last stages already. "We are in continuous talks; we will soon take a decision on our seat-sharing arrangement," Mr. Fadnavis said.

The wedge between Mr. Thackeray and Mr. Fadnavis over the proposed refinery at Nanar in Sindhudurg at one point got so deep that the Sena chief had publicly announced that the notification to acquire 16,000 hectares for the project stood cancelled. The CM later announced that Sena minister Subhash Desai, who heads the Industries Department, had no power to with-



**Talking point:** The Nanar project had driven a deep wedge between Devendra Fadnavis and Uddhav Thackeray. ■ FILE PHOTO

draw the notification for land acquisition.

On Monday, a BJP leader said, "We are disappointed with the statement, since so far, the Sena has been playing a balancing role while opposing the (Aarey) project. But with this statement (Mr. Thackeray's), they have made their position clear."

Mr. Thackeray's statement comes in the wake of continuous pressure from activists and political opponents who have alleged doublespeak in the senior and junior (Aaditya) Thackerays' stand on the project. Mr. Fadnavis, on the other hand, has claimed that Aarey is not a forest and his government will ensure the Metro Bhavan is constructed

at the proposed site.

BJP leaders said that as per the final round of talks, the BJP will likely propose 155-157 seats as its share, while asking Sena to take 115-117 seats and leaving around 18 seats for splinter groups who are part of the alliance.

The new formula is not different from the promised 50:50 seat-sharing agreement arrived at by both parties before the Lok Sabha polls and it leaves room for negotiating over 20 to 25 seats on either side, leaders said. "From our side, this is the final number, considering many factors such as the wave in favour of the party post abrogation of Article 370," a senior BJP leader said.

## Cong., NCP to contest 125 seats each: Pawar

38 seats to be left for other allies

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
MUMBAI

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress will contest 125 seats each in the Assembly election, NCP chief Sharad Pawar said on Monday.



Sharad Pawar

Congress had won 42 seats, while the NCP 41 seats in the 2014 polls. The BJP had emerged as the single-largest party with 122 seats.

The seat-sharing pact between the Congress and NCP comes after many high-profile exits from both parties, more so from the Sharad Pawar-led outfit. Many of those who left have joined the BJP, and a few have defected to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena.

# ECI may announce poll dates for three States on Thursday

CEC to meet officials in police, Railways, I-T over next 2 days

**SHARAD VYAS**  
MUMBAI

A team of officials from the Election Commission of India (ECI) will visit Maharashtra to assess preparations before announcing dates for the Assembly election. The team, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, is likely to hold meetings over the next two days with officials from the Maharashtra government, Maharashtra Police, Railways, Income Tax, Excise and other departments involved in preparation for the elections due in October, 2019.



**Gearing up:** The State EC will take at least 35 days to prepare for polls. ■ FILE PHOTO

The three-member team will hold meetings for the next two days and is likely to announce a date on September 19 (Thursday)," a senior official said. Assembly elections are due in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand this year. Officials said Maharashtra could see polling in

dition, before Diwali holidays, which end on October 27, said a senior official.

The State government is also likely to make a requisition to the ECI and the Central government for additional police force if necessary as part of law and order requirements leading up to the elections.

The team will hold meetings with divisional commissioners, collectors and leaders of political parties during the visit. Earlier, in the wake of the floods, the district administrations had written to the government requesting that the elections be deferred due to severe damage in western Maharashtra. Chief Secretary Ajoy Mehta held meetings in this regard last month and directed officials to ensure all possible efforts are made to continue poll preparations in flood-affected areas, said officials.

# CM hits out at Pawar's 'hospitable Pakistan' remark

NCP accuses Fadnavis of distorting party chief's comment

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
PUNE/MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar's recent statement on his experience with Pakistani people has heated up the pre-poll scene in Maharashtra, with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday linking it with vote bank politics. Mr. Fadnavis also said big politicians should bear in mind if their statements are benefiting India or Pakistan.

Meanwhile, riled by the attack on the party chief, the NCP has accused the Chief Minister of twisting Mr. Pawar's statement.

Mr. Pawar, while addressing a meeting of minority community members at the NCP office in Mumbai on Saturday, had recalled that he had visited Pakistan several times and was always accorded warm hospitality. "Pakistanis are of the belief that even if they can't travel to India to meet their relatives, they treat all Indians as their relatives," the former Defence Minister had said.

Speaking to reporters in Karad in Satara district on Monday during the last leg of the Mahajanadesh Yatra, Mr. Fadnavis said Mr. Pawar was a tall leader. "Big leaders should understand whether their statements will benefit

India or Pakistan. When Rahul Gandhi went to Kashmir, he made similar statements. Pakistan had said in the United Nations the next day that Mr. Gandhi was echoing their (Pakistan's) views," he said.

Assigning political motives to Mr. Pawar's statements, the CM said elections would come and go, but making such statements for the sake of votes was not good. "It seems Pawar saheb is not aware that Indian Muslims have great pride for India. If he thinks Muslims will vote for him (NCP) if he makes such statements, that thought itself is doing them injustice," he said, adding that Mr. Pawar's statement shows the NCP's "mentality".

Hitting back at Mr. Fadnavis, NCP spokesperson Nawab Malik said the Chief Minister did not understand the import of Mr. Pawar's statement. He said Mr. Pawar had shared his experience of his visit to Pakistan as chairman of the Board of Cricket Control of India. "The response of the common people there was not of animosity, but they treated him well... Mr. Fadnavis distorted his statement for political gain," he alleged.

Mr. Malik said onion growers are not getting a good rate for their produce, but the Centre was prepared to import the bulb from Pakistan. "The BJP government should not give us lessons on the interests of the country," the NCP leader said.



**Playing chicken:** A video grab shows Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana workers trying to throw Kadaknath chickens at the Mahajanadesh Yatra convoy in Sangli on Monday ■ PTI

## Bid to hurl birds at CM's convoy foiled

SSS seeks ED probe against firm that duped farmers

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
PUNE

Workers of the Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana (SSS) on Monday tried to fling Kadaknath breed chickens and eggs at the convoy of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's Mahajanadesh Yatra in Sangli district, but Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members foiled their attempt.

The incident occurred in Kundal area in Palus taluka in western Maharashtra, more than 230 km here. According to eyewitnesses, some activists of the

Raju Shetti-led organisation tried to hurl the chickens, but were prevented from doing so by BJP workers at the spot, and the CM's entourage passed through without incident.

A senior official said three people were detained for the protest and a probe was under way.

The SSS has been demanding an inquiry by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against a poultry firm which is accused of duping farmers of ₹550 crore by promising to help them rear

Kadaknath chickens. The ED, however, contends that the amount involved in the scam may be around ₹95 crore.

Kadaknath chicken is famed in parts of central India, primarily Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, for its nutritional and purported medicinal values, with a kilogramme selling at rates as high as ₹900.

"The ED should find out where the money was laundered. More than 10,000 farmers were affected," Mr. Shetti claimed.

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
VADODARA

Students of some universities in Gujarat participated in a rally organised to celebrate the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 and remove the special status granted to Jammu & Kashmir.



Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani addressed the rally on Sunday. ■ FILE PHOTO

Authorities at the State-run Maharaja Sayajirao (MS) University, through a WhatsApp message, asked its 45,000-odd students – including over two dozen hailing from Jammu & Kashmir – to take part in the 'Bharat Ekta' rally on Sunday. They called it a "nation-building" exercise.

Addressing the rally, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani blamed former prime minister, the late Jawaharlal Nehru, for "two Constitutions and two flags for the country".

"Now the task of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shahji is to merge the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir with Jammu & Kashmir to make it an integral part of India, for which Parliament has already passed a unanimous resolution," he said.

The rally was organised by a local organisation, Vadodara Nagrik Samiti.

Earlier, Mr. Rupani flagged off the 'Bharat Ekta Kooch Yatra', a foot march organised under the leadership of former Maharaja of Baroda Samarjitsinh Gaekwad in support of the abrogation of Article 370.



Hardik Patel

## Patidar protest: Hardik appears before probe commission

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
AHMEDABAD

Congress leader and Patidar quota agitation spearhead Hardik Patel on Monday appeared before the K.A. Puj Commission inquiring into alleged police atrocities during the community's 2015 stir.

Mr. Patel, after appearing before the commission in Gandhinagar, said he has been asked to submit a written statement which he would do on Wednesday. "I was asked to submit a written statement. Since I had not prepared my submission in writing, I was asked to appear before it on Wednesday. I will submit written statement and proof," he said.

The commission of inquiry, headed by former High Court judge K.A. Puj, had issued a notice to Mr. Patel and other leaders of the agitation to make their submission related to alleged atrocities committed by the police during the August 2015 protest.

The other leaders of the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti who have got notices from the commission include Chirag Patel, Ketan Patel and Amrish Patel.

## 'Quota alone can't ensure a community's progress'

Gadkari calls for growth through education, promoting visionary leadership

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NAGPUR

Union Minister and BJP leader Nitin Gadkari on Monday said reservation is necessary for progress of members of a socially and economically backward community, but the quota system alone cannot ensure their complete development. He emphasised on progress of a community through education, social and economic means.

Mr. Gadkari also talked about leadership beyond caste considerations and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi "for never invoking his caste".

The Union minister was addressing a gathering at the Akhil Bhartiya Mali Samaj Mahaadiveshan organised by the Mahatma Phule Shikshan Sanstha.

Mali community leaders, speaking at the event earlier, demanded among other things more representation



Nitin Gadkari

and election tickets for members of their social group, which falls in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category.

Mr. Gadkari said such demands are very common from every community and asked them to look beyond such assertions. The BJP leader said he has personally experienced that a community getting the maximum number of ministers does not mean members of that

social group will progress.

"When people fail to get ticket on the basis of their work, they play the caste card ... I want to ask: did (a former Union minister and socialist stalwart) George Fernandes belong to any caste? He did not belong to any caste ... he was Christian. Did Ashok Gehlot belong to your caste? But he became Chief Minister of Rajasthan when people from other caste groups helped him," he said.

"People had told me that women should get reservation. I said yes, they should get reservation. But, I immediately asked them, did Indira Gandhi get reservation? For several years, she ruled the country and became popular ... Similarly, did Vasundhara Raje and Sushma Swaraj get reservation?" Mr. Gadkari asked.

The minister emphasised on promoting good and vi-

sionary leadership from a community so that its members can move forward on path of success.

"Prime Minister Modi never talks about his caste. I really appreciate Modi. He Modi has never said he belongs to a backward community," Gadkari said. "There are people who went one to become big leaders, but no one ever talks about their caste. Hence, we should create such leaders who can successfully lead the country, States and change the economic condition of society," the minister said.

Mali community leaders at the convention also requested Mr. Gadkari to push for awarding the Bharat Ratna to social reformers Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule. Mr. Gadkari said he would talk to the Prime Minister regarding their demand.

## Tracking progress



**Hard at work:** A view of the construction work of the Pune Metro under way at the site of the Vanaz depot at Paud Road on Monday. ■ JIGNESH MISTRY





**Sabarimala temple opens for five days of rituals**

**PATHANAMTHITTA**  
The Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala opened on Monday for the five-day rituals in the Malayalam month of Kanni that begins on Tuesday. Melsanthi V.N. Vasudevan Namboodiri opened the sanctum sanctorum at 5 p.m. The temple rituals will begin with the Tantri performing Ashtadravya Maha Ganapati homom on Tuesday morning. The temple will be closed after the Athazhapuja on September 21 evening.

**Yediyurappa govt. orders probe into two projects**

**BENGALURU**  
The BJP government in Karnataka headed by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa ordered probe into two mega projects and scrapped tenders for a third on Monday. Mr. Yediyurappa on Monday ordered a probe into Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and the underground dustbin scheme, implemented during the Siddaramaiah-led Congress regime. He also scrapped tenders floated for the elevated corridor road project, floated during the H.D. Kumaraswamy-led coalition government.

**CCTV installed at 'Sabera' in Tirumala temple**

**TIRUMALA**  
The TTD recently set up a closed circuit camera at 'Sabera,' a small room where the silver and other articles used in the daily worship of the presiding deity are stored, inside the hill temple. Even though no religious sanctity of any kind is attached to the room, a visit to the room is treated as a preferential treatment extended by the management. The TTD has strictly warned the staff not to allow any outsiders into the room.

# Search continues for 38 boat capsize victims

A.P. Chief Minister sets up probe panel, criticises officials

**RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS RAMPACHODAVARAM**

A total of 73 persons – 41 from Telangana and 32 from Andhra Pradesh – were aboard the *Royal Vasista*, the tourist boat when it capsize on Sunday afternoon in the Godavari river at Katchluru village in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

Additional Director General (Law and Order) Ravi Shankar Ayyanar said 27 tourists survived the accident, eight bodies were traced and 38 persons were still missing. “Many women and children are among the missing,” he told *The Hindu* on Monday.

According to a PTI report, four more bodies were recovered during the day, taking the death toll to 12. East Godavari Superintendent of Police Adnan Nayeem Asmi said three choppers of the ONGC, Navy and Reliance, and NDRF and SDRF personnel were searching for those missing.

**Boat not found**

“The boat [which was on its way to the Papikondalu tourist spot] has not been located yet. We suspect that some bodies are trapped inside or underneath the boat and are trying to extricate it,” the Additional D-G said.

Godavari Head Works executive engineer R. Mohan Rao said the discharge from Dowleswaram Barrage was 5 lakh cusecs on Sunday (when the tragedy occurred) and on Monday, 4.62 lakh cusecs was discharged.

“Flood level in the Godavari is still at danger level and no boats have been permitted in the river for the last one month,” said Mr. Rao, who is also the Flood



**The day after:** NDRF and Navy personnel searching for the missing passengers in the Godavari on Monday. ■PTI

Conservator. “As per the instructions from the higher authorities, we are slowly discharging water from the barrage from all the 175 gates,” Mr. Rao said. “We have arranged floodlights at the river at Dowleswaram and about 200 employees are involved in the search.”

**Intensive search**

Over 100 fishermen and motor boats were scouring the Godavari river, Eastern Canal, Bobbarlanka and Vijjeswaram Canals, he said. NDRF 10th Battalion Commandant Zahid Khan said search operations were continuing in the Agency area.

At a review meeting, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy pulled up officials for poor monitoring of boat operations and for not ensuring safety of vessels in the State.

He directed officials to check all boats regularly. He wondered how a private boat was allowed to ply when the Tourism Department boats were stopped owing to the rise in water level.

Speaking to journalists, the Ministers who attended the meeting said a high-level committee would probe the tragedy and make recommendations to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The committee would submit its report in 45 days.

One of the seniormost TDP leaders, Siva Prasada Rao, popularly known as ‘Palnati Pul’ (Tiger of Palnadu region) emerged as a strong leader in Guntur district after he made his electoral debut in the general elections of 1983. Kodela won five successive elections till 2004, holding major portfolios.

# 600 girls rescued from A.P. school

Water suddenly rose to 3 feet; compound wall demolished for rescue efforts

**STAFF REPORTER KURNOOL**

Over 600 girl students of a residential school (Gurukulam) were rescued after water entered the premises following flash floods owing to excessive rain in the early hours of Monday at Padakandla village of the Allagadda mandal in Kurnool district. None was injured in the incident.

According to Allagadda Dy. SP V. Pothuraju, the rain started pouring around midnight on Sunday and continued for a few hours. As per the data received from revenue officials, the mandal received 119 mm of rain in just a few hours. Following this, water accumulated in the school up to three feet.

The authorities smashed the compound wall of the school to bring in rescue vehicles. “We have shifted 620 people, both children



**Route to safety:** Students of a school in Allagadda being evacuated on Monday. ■U. SUBRAMANYAM

and the hostel staff, to secure locations,” Mr. Pothuraju said.

He said they had informed the civic officials and the RTC to transport the children.

The officials faced a few is-

sues while shifting the children with the buses getting stuck in the flood. “Though the young girls have not sustained any injuries, the floods frightened them,” the DSP said.

A few other schools in Siri-

vella and Gospadu mandals also reported flooding. The ground floor of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) in Gospadu was inundated, while the ground of the Sirivella KGBV was submerged in rainwater.

# A surgeon who became A.P. Speaker

His political tenure had its share of controversies

**P. SAMUEL JONATHAN GUNTUR**

The death of former Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kodela Siva Prasada Rao on Monday left a void in the political landscape of the State and plunged the Telugu Desam Party into deep sorrow.

One of the seniormost TDP leaders, Siva Prasada Rao, popularly known as ‘Palnati Pul’ (Tiger of Palnadu region) emerged as a strong leader in Guntur district after he made his electoral debut in the general elections of 1983. Kodela won five successive elections till 2004, holding major portfolios.



Kodela Siva Prasada Rao

pleted his MBBS from the Guntur Medical College and MS in surgery from the Varanasi Medical College. He set up a hospital at Narsaraopet and soon gained popularity as a successful surgeon.

**Turning point**

His break came in 1982, after he entered politics responding to the call given by act-turned-politician N.T. Rama Rao. After locking horns in a fierce electoral battle with B. Subba Reddy, Kodela emerged victorious. He became powerful after taking on the Kasu family leaders and was rewarded with the portfolio of Home Minister in 1987.

The contests between Kodela and Kasu Krishna Reddy in successive elections were marred by violence

and allegations of booth capturing

His tenure was not without its share of controversies and the Congress accused him of playing a role in the murder of its MLA and Kapu leader Vangaveeti Mohan Ranga. In 1999, a bomb blast at the residence of Kodela killed four of his close aides.

It was during his tenure as Speaker that Kodela courted many controversies. Allegations of harassment, interference and misuse of official machinery were levelled against his son Sivaram and daughter Poonati Vijaya-lakshmi. He and his family faced the ignominy of being named in several cases of cheating but allegations of stealing furniture from the Assembly drove him into deep despair.

# Tourism Ministers call for cut in GST on hotel rooms

‘Airfares should be kept under check during peak season’

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

Tourism Ministers from different States have made a strong case for reduction, simplification and rationalisation of various taxes and levies, including Goods and Services Tax, in tourism and travel industry to attract tourists and cushion stiff global competition.

“The Tourism Ministers’ conclave 2019 at Kovalam notes with concern that the GST Council of India has imposed 28% GST on hotel room tariff over ₹7,500 and 18% tax on rooms with tariffs between ₹2,500 and ₹7,500. This tax rate is high compared with other countries,” said a resolution unanimously adopted.

The resolution, moved by Karnataka Tourism Minister C.T. Ravi, said reduction in GST in hotel rooms was essential to attract tourists.

**More worries**

It also sought measures to reduce high airfares. “We express concern over the high airfares during peak season and festival periods, which are forcing holiday-makers to opt for economical destinations. Besides, unexpected closure of certain airlines/carriers has led to increased airfares while minimal air connectivity with 2-tier and 3-tier cities has only compounded the problem,” it said.

The one-day conclave also took note of the high and varied

inter-State tourist vehicle taxes and called for its rationalisation across all the States to ensure seamless travel.

In another resolution, the conclave proposed formation of Regional Tourism Councils and developing tourism circuits, which could be region-based and in neighbouring States. “We resolve to jointly promote our tourist attractions across the world in order to give a cutting edge to our campaigns,” it said. The resolution, moved by Odisha Tourism Minister, Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, said setting up Regional Tourism Councils would facilitate periodic interaction among States and enhance collaboration.

# Dalit MP stopped from entering Golla settlement in Tumakuru

I am deeply pained, I went there to provide them amenities: Narayanaswamy

**STAFF REPORTER TUMAKURU**

Former Karnataka Minister and Chitradurga MP, A. Narayanaswamy, faced humiliating moments after he was denied entry into a Gollarahatti (settlement of Golla community) of Pemmanahalli in Pavagada taluk of Tumakuru district on Monday.

Mr. Narayanaswamy went to visit the Gollarahatti along with four doctors of Narayana Hrudayalaya and two staff members from Biocon, Bengaluru, around 5.30 p.m.

Narayana Hrudayalaya and Biocon had come forward to provide housing and other amenities to the deprived



A. Narayanaswamy ■FILE PHOTO

classes of society as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility programmes.

When he reached the settlement, some of the residents told him not to come inside as he belonged to a

Scheduled Caste community and as per their tradition, people from the Scheduled Castes were not allowed entry. Mr. Narayanaswamy confirmed the incident.

“I was deeply pained I was not allowed into the Gollarahatti as I am a Dalit. I had gone to listen to their problems and provide them housing and other basic amenities, as they have been living in huts for several years without amenities,” he told *The Hindu*.

**MP hopeful**

Later, another group of people of the same Gollarahatti told him to enter their *hatti*, but he refused as he “did not

want to trigger quarrels among them”.

The MP said he could have forcibly entered the Gollarahatti with the help of police and registered a complaint, but did not do so as he was more keen on changing people’s mindset and educating them. “The people of that Gollarahatti told me that former MLA Thimmarayappa, who also belongs to a SC community, had not entered either,” Mr. Narayanaswamy said.

He expressed confidence that he would succeed in changing the mindset of the people of the Gollarahatti so that they themselves would invite him to visit in future.

# HC sets aside demolition of Errum Manzil

Telangana govt. was to construct Assembly on site

**MARRI RAMU HYDERABAD**

The Telangana High Court on Monday set aside the decision of the State Cabinet to demolish a heritage structure, Errum Manzil, and build a new Assembly building at the site.

The decision of Telangana Cabinet taken on June 18 this year, was challenged by different parties in HC filing as many as eight Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petitions. After hearing arguments and counter arguments for several weeks, the HC in its verdict observed that the decision was arbitrary.

The division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Shameem Akther said the State had ignored various essential provisions of



**Threat blows over:** Visitors snap photographs of Errum Manzil in Hyderabad. It was built around the year 1870 by Nawab Safdar Jung Musheer-ud-daula Fakhru'l Mulk. ■G. RAMAKRISHNA

the law while deciding to demolish Errum Manzil. The Cabinet had also overlooked important factors and ignored the procedures established by law. Even the HC’s directions were given a miss,

the verdict said.

An individual’s identity is moulded by his or her culture, history and heritage. Therefore, preservation of heritage was incorporated to be part of “life” enshrined in

Article 21 of the Constitution, the bench noted. “While it is important to plan for the future, it is equally important to protect, preserve and promote the past, the judgment observed.

The World Heritage Convention, 1972, makes it imperative for the State to preserve heritage buildings which contribute to the sense of culture and identity of the State. “The State cannot afford the luxury of forgetting that the destruction of heritage building will rob its people of the essence of their identity and the city of its uniqueness,” the verdict said.

Referring to the legal tangles of the issue, the bench said the Regulation 13 of the Zonal Regulations-1981 was framed under section 59 of the Urban Areas Act by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority. “The government did not have the power to repeal the Regulation 13 of Zonal Regulations-1981,” the verdict said.

This Zoning Regulations 13 created Special Reservation Zone under which come the “heritage buildings and heritage precincts”.

# Unanimous resolution against uranium mining

Telangana govt. appeals to Centre

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD**

An unanimous resolution was adopted in the Telangana Assembly here on Monday requesting the Union government not to permit mining of uranium ore in the Nallamala forest area and other areas in Telangana State.

The resolution was moved by Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Industries and IT&C Minister K.T. Rama Rao.

Taking up the resolution after Question Hour, Mr. Rama Rao said the issue was raised by Congress MLA Bhatti Vikramarka in the House on Sunday and Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao positively responded positively to it.

In his resolution, the Mi-

nister said the House was requesting the Union government to withdraw its decision to allow uranium mining operations.

**Rich biodiversity**

“Nallamala forest area is the abode of tigers, deers, bison, bears and other animals and rare medicinal plants and lakhs of varieties of plants and trees are thriving in the forest. Several tribes like the Chenchus and other forest dwellers are dependent on the forest for their livelihood. The waterfalls from the high mountain peaks and hills in the forest serve as the catchment area for the Krishna river. Nallamala forest is the basis for the rich biodiversity and taking up mining operations for uranium will damage its ecological balance,” he said.

**Safety concerns**

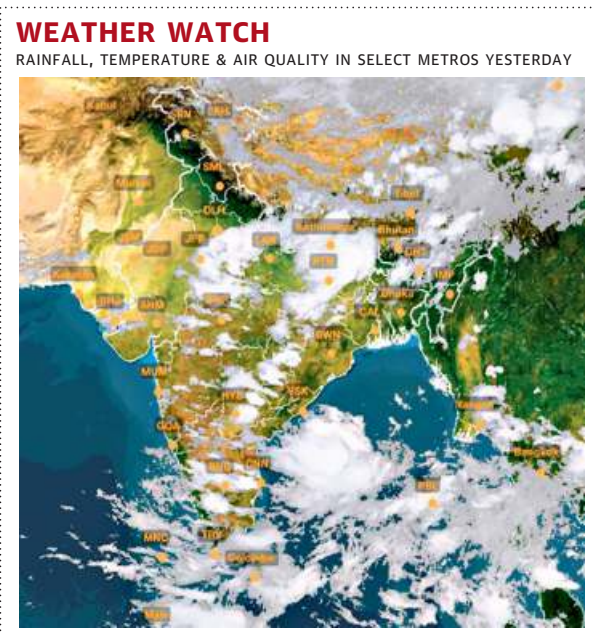
Mr. Sreedharan had earlier pointed out that the structural safety of the flyover was in doubt. The 750-m flyover was built in 2016 by the Roads and Bridges Development Corporation of Kerala Limited (RBDCK), a subsidiary of the Public Works Department. Kitco was behind the design and technical consultancy and the New Delhi-based contracting firm RDS Projects Ltd executed the work.

Within two years of its commissioning, cracks appeared on the flyover.

“Technically and financially, it has been inferred that reconstruction of the flyover is appropriate as repairs are not enough,” Mr. Vijayan said.

The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau had arrested former Public Works Secretary T. O. Sooraj and three other officials in connection with the probe into the flyover work. The VACB had acted on the technical experts’ observations regarding the compromise on quality of materials such as cement and steel.





**Forecast for Tuesday:** Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Andaman & Nicobar Islands, eastern Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Gujarat, central Maharashtra, Goa, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Puducherry.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.0	27.4	Kozhikode	1.4	32.4	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	32.4	25.8	Kurnool	1.3	33.5	25.2
Aizawl	7.0	—	11.3	Lucknow	0.4	33.3	26.4
Allahabad	—	36.7	27.3	Madurai	6.5	33.4	23.0
Bengaluru	0.2	29.5	21.0	Mangaluru	28.9	30.2	22.6
Bhopal	8.4	30.2	22.0	Mumbai	9.4	30.0	24.3
Bhubaneswar	—	33.8	26.5	Mysuru	—	30.7	20.5
Chandigarh	—	33.5	24.3	New Delhi	—	36.4	27.1
Chennai	0.3	34.8	25.5	Patna	—	34.9	27.4
Coimbatore	18.7	32.6	23.2	Port Blair	41.9	26.8	22.0
Dehradun	0.3	31.2	24.4	Puducherry	—	33.0	23.0
Gangtok	11.9	19.6	17.7	Pune	0.2	26.7	22.0
Goa	14.6	29.4	24.1	Raipur	—	32.3	25.9
Guwahati	0.1	32.4	26.3	Ranchi	—	32.8	23.4
Hubballi	—	27.1	22.1	Shillong	3.6	25.2	17.0
Hyderabad	—	31.0	23.4	Shimla	—	24.8	15.4
Imphal	10.1	30.2	20.7	Srinagar	—	30.8	12.7
Jaipur	11.0	—	25.7	Thiruvananthapuram	21.0	30.5	24.3
Kochi	18.0	30.6	24.8	Tiruchi	14.8	35.2	23.6
Kohima	—	32.7	18.6	Vijayawada	1.2	34.6	27.5
Kolkata	—	34.6	27.4	Visakhapatnam	—	32.0	27.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITY	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	78	51	75	88	111	■
Bengaluru	2	77	95	37	72	■
Chennai	7	9	26	99	—	■
Delhi	8	71	22	93	211	■
Hyderabad	50	34	16	74	97	■
Kolkata	10	26	13	58	77	■
Lucknow	5	12	78	36	—	■
Mumbai	12	44	11	33	73	■
Pune	74	88	66	35	35	■
Visakhapatnam	16	32	45	61	76	■

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sirsa, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 179 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Eloor, Kerala and Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 26.

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**NO<sub>2</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

IN BRIEF

Ground staff to undergo breathalyser test: DGCA

NEW DELHI  
The DGCA has framed new rules making breathalyser test mandatory for all personnel handling sensitive functions at airports. Until now, only crew members had to take the test. The new rules will be implemented in three phases, covering all airports in the country by the end of this year.

Trilateral naval exercise begins in Port Blair

NEW DELHI  
The maiden trilateral naval exercise involving India, Singapore and Thailand commenced at Port Blair on Monday. The exercise was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his address at the Shangri-La dialogue in June 2018.

Anti-microbial Resistance Hub comes up in Kolkata

KOLKATA  
The ICMR, in association with the U.S. Consulate of Kolkata and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, on Monday inaugurated India's first National Anti-microbial Resistance Hub in Kolkata. Director-General of ICMR Balram Bhargava said the Kolkata centre would be the hub for research on antibiotic resistance not only for the country but for the entire South Asia.

CBI team visits Bengal Secretariat, seeks Rajeev Kumar's whereabouts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

A CBI team arrived at the West Bengal Secretariat on Monday and delivered sealed letters to the State's Chief Secretary, Home Secretary and Director General of Police seeking the whereabouts of senior IPS officer Rajeev Kumar.

A police officer told *The Hindu* that the CBI has formed a "very large" team, including technical experts, to track down Mr. Kumar, who himself is a communication network expert. "The CBI wants to arrest him by the time the Chief Minister [Mamata Banerjee] meets the Prime Mi-

Turkish award for activist who survived assault by coal mafia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Meghalaya-based rights activist Agnes Kharshiing, who survived an assault by the coal mafia almost a year ago, received the 11th International Hrant Dink Award along with Turkish activist against male violence Nebahat Akkoç.

The two activists were presented the award that commemorates the memory of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, who was killed in 2007, in Istanbul on Sunday.

Since 2009, the Hrant Dink Award is presented every year to individuals, organisations or groups that work for a world free from discrimination, racism and violence, and who take personal risks for achieving those ideals, break the stereotypes and use the language of peace and by doing so give inspiration and hope to others.

The award committee said Ms. Kharshiing, 59, was chosen for "defending the rights of the poor, women, children and disadvantaged groups where she lives as well as for environmental rights". Ms. Akkoç, based in



**True grit:** Agnes Kharshiing was attacked by a group of 40 men and left to die last November. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Turkey's Anatolia, was awarded for "working to raise awareness about women's rights and to struggle against male violence".

‘Chasing trucks’

Often referred to as the "woman who chases trucks ferrying illegally-mined coal", Ms. Kharshiing and her associate Amita Sangma were on November 8, 2018, assaulted by a mob during one of their many "surveillance" trips to Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills, a district rich in coal and limestone. About 40 people — mostly men involved in the banned rat-hole coal mining and illegal coal trade — ambushed their vehicle, dragged them out and hit

Rape survivor records her statement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

The law student from Shahjahanpur who accused former Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Swami Chinmayanand of rape and exploitation on Monday recorded her statement at a court in the central Uttar Pradesh district.

Amid heavy police protection, the student, her face covered by a black dupatta, was brought to the judicial magistrate court in Shahjahanpur to record her statement under the Code of Criminal Procedure Section 164. The Special Investigation Team probing the case is expected to register a fresh First Information Report on the basis of the young woman's testimony. However, it was yet to do so till Monday evening.

The student reportedly submitted a written complaint, alleging sexual assault and blackmail by the BJP leader.

She has repeatedly stressed that despite her testimony, the police was hesitating to book Mr. Chinmayanand for rape.

Wrath of water



**Taking stock:** Lok Sabha Speaker and Kota MP Om Birla visiting the flood-affected areas in the city on Monday. Heavy rainfall and discharge of water from overflowing dams in Madhya Pradesh have worsened the situation in Kota and nearby areas of Rajasthan. ■PTI



**Steeley resolve:** Sahista Pervaz, right, wife of Tabrez Ansari, being comforted by her mother. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

plied to them.

"We are committed to take the case to its logical end," said Mr. Alam. "We suspect that there is a concerted

effort to weaken the case and let off the culprits. Even today, we were not given any records and have been told to collect those from court,"

Officials get NCW, NHRC notices over gang rape

Muzaffarpur victim had filed complaint

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PATNA

The National Commission for Women (NCW) and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday took cognizance of the gang rape of a girl in Bettiah town of West Champaran district and issued notices to Bihar officials.

The rape survivor, an inmate of the Muzaffarpur shelter home, had been rehabilitated with her family after revelations of the sexual abuse of 34 girls in the home was reported in May 2018. The Supreme Court is monitoring the case.

The survivor had lodged a complaint with the Bettiah town police station that she was gang-raped by four of her neighbours in a moving SUV on the Bettiah-Pakhna road on the night of September 13.

The survivor was later admitted to the government hospital for treatment and medical examination.

On Monday, the NCW and the NHRC took cognisance

alleged Mr. Alam.

Tabrez's wife wanted to know the names of the doctors and their line of treatment during admission of her husband in Seraikela district headquarters hospital and Seraikela jail. She had earlier demanded a CBI probe alleging that proper investigation had not been conducted in the case.

In April, the 24-year-old youth, who was working as a welder in Pune, had returned to his village Kadamdia, 15 km from the district headquarters town of Seraikela, to get married. On April 27, his marriage was solemnized with Ms. Pervaz. The couple was planning to return to Pune after some days.

But on June 17 night, some people of Dhatkidih village, a

few kilometres from his house, caught hold of him and branded him a thief. He was beaten up by a mob for a whole night and forced to chant 'Jai Hanuman' and 'Jai Sriram'. On June 22, he succumbed to injuries, while in judicial custody. It was alleged that Tabrez was not given proper and timely medical attention.

Eleven persons have so far been charge-sheeted in the case and investigation is still to be completed against two more persons, as they were apprehended later.

The Seraikela police had dropped murder charges against the accused contending that Tabrez had died of a cardiac arrest due to stress and had not died as a result of his injuries.

Adnan Sami gets ₹50 lakh penalty notice

DEVESH K. PANDEY NEW DELHI

The Appellate Tribunal for the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) has imposed a penalty of ₹50 lakh on singer Adnan Sami for buying eight flats in Mumbai in 2003 without prior permission from the Reserve Bank of India, when he was a Pakistani national.

However, while the Tribunal has quashed the December 2010 order of the Enforcement Directorate Special Director (Mumbai), for confiscation of the properties, it enhanced the penalty amount from ₹20 lakh to ₹50 lakh.

The penalty amount has to be paid within three months of the order, which was issued on September 12. Mr. Sami had earlier deposited ₹10 lakh.

The Tribunal's directive came on an appeal by Mr. Sami against the Special Director's order for confiscation of the flats and five parking lots and imposition of ₹20 lakh in penalty.

**भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण**  
**AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
(TENDER ID: 2019\_AAI\_30715\_1)  
Airports Authority of India, Trivandrum Airport invites tenders (through e-tendering process) for grant of LICENCE FOR OPERATING MONEY EXCHANGE COUNTER IN THE ARRIVAL AREA OF INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL BUILDING. For detailed information, log on to CPP e-port reference <https://tenders.gov.in/e-procure/app> or [www.aai.aero](http://www.aai.aero). Further clarification/corrigendum if any will be notified through e-procurement portal at <https://tenders.gov.in/e-procure/app>.  
**AIRPORT DIRECTOR**

**PROFESSOR JAYASHANKAR TELANGANA STATE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**  
Administrative Office, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-30, Telangana State, India  
ADVT. No. 01/OP/A2/2019 Date: 16-09-2019  
**INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY OFFICERS POSTS**  
The University has desired to fill up **University Officers** Posts. For details of posts, eligibility criteria etc. and notification visit PJTSAU website: [www.pjtsau.edu.in](http://www.pjtsau.edu.in)  
**Dr. S.SUDHEER KUMAR, REGISTRAR.**

**TICEL BIO PARK LTD.**  
(TIDCO Centre for Life Sciences)  
CIN: U45309TN2001PLC047979  
No.5, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113. Ph: +91 44 2254 2060/61/62, Fax: +91 44 2254 2055, E-mail: [md@ticebiopark.com](mailto:md@ticebiopark.com)

**Re-Tender for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of DG Set & Allied Works in the construction of TICEL Bio Park - III (G + 13 Upper Floors) at SF No.66, 67, 68 & 75, Off Maruthamalai Road, Somayampalayam Village, Bharathiya University P.O., Coimbatore - 641 046.**

TICEL invites Tender for the following service for Bio Park - III at Coimbatore:

Name of the Tender	Tender Document Cost (₹ in ₹)	EMD (₹ in Lakhs)	Date of the Pre-Bid Meeting at Site	Last Date of Submission	Date of Technical Bid Opening
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of DG Set & Allied Works.	16,800/-	1.65	12.00 Noon on 24-09-2019	03-10-2019 before 3.00 P.M.	03-10-2019 @ 3.30 P.M. at TICEL Bio Park-I, No.5, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.

Tender Documents can be downloaded from TICEL's website viz. [www.ticebiopark.com](http://www.ticebiopark.com) from 17-09-2019 onwards. The downloaded Tender Documents should be submitted by the Bidder along with Tender Document Fee of ₹ 16,800/- in the form of crossed Demand Draft drawn on any Nationalized Bank in favour of **TICEL Bio Park Ltd.**, Payable at Chennai. Tender Documents submitted without the non-refundable Tender Document Fee will be summarily rejected. The EMD should be in the form of Crossed Demand Draft drawn on any Nationalized Bank in favour of **TICEL Bio Park Ltd.**, Payable at Chennai. TICEL reserves the right to accept/reject any one/all the Tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

DIPR/1066/DISPLAY/2019 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR.**  
E-Mail ID- [sephbam@nic.in](mailto:sephbam@nic.in) / [sephcbam@gmail.com](mailto:sephcbam@gmail.com)

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e - Procurement**  
**Invitation For Bids (IFB)**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding	Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	House Service Connection in Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) under Universal Coverage.	Identification No. <b>SEPHCBAM 06/2019-20 Dt.12.09.2019</b>	223.02 (Approx.)	6 (Six) Calendar Months	11.00 AM of 19.09.2019 to 05.30PM of 04.10.2019	Superintending Engineer, P.H. Circle, Berhampur.

The bid shall be opened on dt. **10.10.2019 at 12.30 P.M.**  
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal : <http://tendersodisha.gov.in/>  
Sd/-  
**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.H. CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR**

192-C:  
13004/11/0003/1920

**ଓଡିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ.**  
**ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)  
Regd. Office : Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751022 CIN: U40102OR2004SGC007553

**e-TENDER NOTICE NO.: CPC-12/2019-20**  
For & on behalf of ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED, Senior General Manager (C.P.C) invites Tenders from reputed manufacturers in two part bidding system for Supply of 33KV Vacuum Circuit breakers. The interested bidders would be required to enroll themselves on the tender portal [www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL). Complete set of bidding documents are available at [www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL) from dt.17.09.2019 (10:00 AM) to dt.15.10.2019 (12:30 PM). Interested manufacturers may visit OPTCL's official website <http://www.optcl.co.in> and [www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL) for detail specification.

Tender Specification No.	Description of equipment / Materials	Quantity in Nos.	Delivery schedule	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Spec. document (in Rs.)	Last date of receipt & Opening of tender
Sr. G.M.-CPC-Tender-C.B-12/2019-20	36 KV Vacuum Circuit breakers.	40	(As per Appendix-I of technical specification) 4 months from the issue of P.O.	85,250/-	12,000/- (INR) + (GST) @ 12% = 13,440/-	15.10.2019 (01:0 PM) & 15.10.2019 (03:00 PM)

The bidders can view the tender documents from website free of cost.  
**N.B:** All subsequent addendum / corrigendum to the tender shall be hosted in the OPTCL's official website <http://www.optcl.co.in> and [www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL) only.  
CR Advt. No. 12/2019-20 Sd/- Senior General Manager (C.P.C.)  
Please connect us: [f optcl.odisha](https://www.facebook.com/optcl.odisha) [t optcl\\_odisha](https://www.twitter.com/optcl_odisha) [energyodisha](https://www.linkedin.com/company/energyodisha)





Undesirable and divisive

Promoting greater use of Hindi is fine, but the language of homogenisation is best avoided

It may be customary for the Union Home Minister, who is also in charge of the Department of Official Language, to make a pitch for greater use of Hindi in official work on the occasion of ‘Hindi Diwas’, observed every year on September 14. However, Home Minister Amit Shah’s remarks this year have raised the hackles of political leaders in some States that do not speak Hindi. The possible reason for the pushback from south Indian leaders to his pitch is that he went beyond the usual general remarks on promoting Hindi, and made sweeping claims that Hindi alone could unite the country, and it was the language which should become India’s “identity” globally. Embedded in his tweets as well as a speech on the occasion was a note of resentment against the continuing influence of English. The Kerala Chief Minister dismissed as absurd the claim that Hindi was a unifying force, and even saw in Mr. Shah’s remarks an attempt to trigger a controversy and to divert attention from real issues. Former Karnataka Chief Ministers Siddaramaiah and H.D. Kumaraswamy and DMK president M.K. Stalin questioned Mr. Shah’s remarks and saw in them an attempt to impose Hindi on their States. Few would disagree that imposing a language on the unwilling is hardly unifying, but could turn out to be divisive. Further, national identity cannot be linked to any one language, as it is, by definition, something that transcends linguistic and regional differences.

It is time the Centre realised that the creation of linguistic States has obviated the need for a campaign against a “foreign language” allegedly fostering a slave mentality. Regional languages have become the official languages of the States, and the continued use of English has a strong utilitarian value. While the development of Hindi is undoubtedly a constitutional command the Union government cannot ignore, the manner in which it is done should not give the impression to the States that there is creeping imposition of Hindi. It was only a few months ago that the Centre defused a controversy when it got a paragraph removed from the draft New Education Policy that indicated the mandatory teaching of Hindi. The fact that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is seen as a ‘Hindi-Hindu’ party that encourages unbridled homogenisation also works against it whenever such controversies emerge. It would be disastrous for the country’s famed diversity if the promotion of Hindi is considered a step towards a ‘one nation, one language’ kind of unity. Mr. Shah has spoken simultaneously about the increased use of the mother tongue, but detractors would only see it as an attempt to sugar-coat Hindi imposition and the sidelining of English. According a hegemonic role to the “most-spoken” language in the country may promote cultural homogenisation, but that is hardly desirable in a country with a diverse population, a plural ethos and is a cauldron of many languages and cultures.

Avoidable boat tragedy

As past lessons remain unlearnt, man-made tragedies recur with alarming regularity

There is a familiar ring to boat tragedies in Andhra Pradesh. Unsuspecting tourists, mostly from cities, craving to capture a bewitching river view and meeting with a watery grave. The government of the day announces a hefty ex-gratia, promises deterrent action against all those responsible and initiates steps to prevent such tragedies. But the wheel is not broken, and very soon another tragedy strikes. The latest boat tragedy on the Godavari in which eight tourists drowned and 37 are still missing, is no different. The private operator took on board over 70 tourists who were hoping to see the scenic beauty of Papikondalu, without any permission and ventured into the river that has been in spate for days now. Apparently the inexperienced crew could not cope with a sudden current of water at Kachuluru, one of the most dangerous spots enroute. The boat tilted and capsized within minutes and only those wearing life jackets could save themselves. Among the reports that came from the accident spot, there was one that suggested that some tourists removed their jackets as it was sultry, some wanted to have lunch and some more thought it would come in the way of taking selfies. Only a thorough investigation will bring out all the facts.

Police records show over 100 people perishing in boat mishaps during the last three years, the major one being on the Krishna in November 2017 when 22 tourists lost their lives. And all of these tragedies were avoidable if simple precautions were in place – having only experienced crew with valid licences, provision of life jackets for all and not setting out when the river is in full flow. Were any lessons learnt from these recurring mishaps? The accident on the Krishna jolted the N. Chandrababu Naidu government into action and a committee was formed to formulate preventive steps. The committee highlighted the multiplicity of the departments concerned – ranging from irrigation to director of ports – with permitting rides and monitoring and checking illegal ones. It pointed to lack of coordination. For instance, when the river touches the danger mark, the irrigation department should send out a warning to all concerned not to allow any rides. Without a single regulatory body, the result was this typical bureaucratic phenomenon of passing the buck. The committee suggested making the directorate of ports as a nodal agency and the AP Inland Vessel Rules were brought into effect. Nobody knows what happened to these rules and other decisions. To prevent such man-made tragedies, the government must pin responsibility on officials instead of resorting to mere palliative steps.

The slow climb to the trillion economy peak

There has to be a focus on human capital formation and in addressing the real reasons for the economic slowdown



INDIRA HIRWAY

On Independence Day, the Prime Minister expressed confidence that India would be a \$5-trillion economy in 2024, a line that has been picked up by ruling party leaders, Ministers and also senior government officers.

However, this is surprising as the impact of economic growth on major development goals – examples being improvement in education, health and overall human development/human capital formation; expansion in productive employment for all and environmentally sustainable development, etc – depends on the nature and composition of growth.

Share in wealth

The economic growth experience in India in recent decades has shown that growth has had an adverse impact on all these developmental goals. To start with, Credit Suisse, for example, has shown recently that 1% of the wealthiest in India increased their share in wealth from 40% in 2010 to more than 60% in the last five years, and the richest 10% in India own more than four times wealth than the remaining 90%. That is, if we proceed on the same growth path, a large part of the increase in wealth and GDP will be claimed by the top 10% richest population in India. In other words, the top 10% will take

away the lion’s share of the \$5-trillion incomes if and when we reach the target of \$5-trillion economy.

Gaps in education, health

Our growth experience so far shows that the rate of growth of employment has declined with increasing economic growth; we have now reached a stage where the economy is suffering from the highest ever unemployment rate. With rising population and, consequently, the labour force, India will soon experience demographic disaster rather than demographic dividend. The story of health and nutrition is also quite similar. The literacy rate has grown very slowly and according to the United Nations, India’s literacy was 71.1% in 2015. India is now far behind many African countries such as Rwanda, Morocco and Congo in terms of literacy. According to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2018, about 70-74 % children (in the age group 6-14 years) go to school regularly; far fewer go to secondary school. The quality of education is far from satisfactory, if one is to read ASER 2018.

There is an urgent need for a quantum jump in public expenditure on education in order to fill wide gaps in infrastructure, training and retraining of teachers and to ensure a strong follow up on the quality of education. However, as against the norm of 6% of GDP, the government spend is around 4% of GDP on education. It is the same when it comes to the story of health, where the decline in malnutrition, particularly among women and children is very slow; against the norm of 3% of GDP, the government spends around 1.5%



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

of GDP on health. Finally, in the process of growth in India, there has been a severe depletion and degradation of environmental resources. A recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report has warned India of the seriousness of climate change and its severe adverse impact on the environment and the livelihood of masses.

Another major concern about reaching the aim of a \$5-trillion economy is that at present the economy is experiencing a severe slowdown; it would be very difficult to raise the rate of growth to reach \$5 trillion in 2024 unless we focus on human capital formation and address the real reasons for the slowdown. As NITI Aayog has observed recently, the present crisis is the worst crisis India is facing since the Independence. The rate of economic growth, at 5%, is the lowest in the last few years. Also, the rates of savings and investment in the Indian economy have declined, as also exports and total credit. Among the major industries, the automobile industry is experiencing continuous decline, which has led to the retrenchment of 3.5 lakh workers so far. Apart

Israel, Pakistan ties a bridge too far?

Islamabad would dilute its Islamic credentials if it were to establish diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv



SUJAN R. CHINO

Recently, Israeli and Pakistani scholars and opinion-makers appear to have speculated about the possibility of the two states establishing diplomatic ties. This has cast fresh light on the changing dynamics in the region and Israel’s growing diplomatic reach and success.

Ever since Israel’s founding in 1948, it has been the endeavour of the Jewish state to overcome its regional isolation and enhance diplomatic relations with as many countries as possible. Apart from Turkey (1949), Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994), none of the states in the region have recognised Israel. In fact, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) routinely pillories Israel for its “occupation” of Palestinian lands. The latest in this long acrimonious saga is the OIC’s call to convene an emergency session to discuss Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s remarks that, if re-elected, he would definitely annex the Jordan Valley in the West Bank and the northern Dead Sea.

The regular and scathing indictment by the Islamic world notwithstanding, Israel has been successful in gradually expanding its diplomatic profile beyond its im-

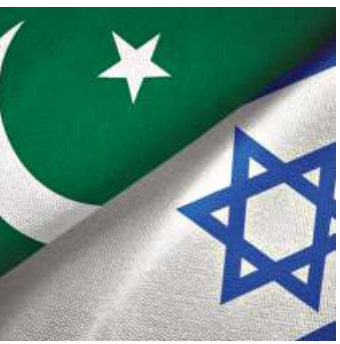
mediate neighbourhood. Israel has established diplomatic relations with a large majority of the 193 UN member states.

India-Israel links

India established full diplomatic ties with Israel in January 1992. While many factors brought these two democracies together, it is a fact that both have successfully tackled state-centric threats throughout their history. Israel has successfully dealt with the gauntlet thrown down by the combined Arab opposition in 1948, 1967 and in 1973. India has prevailed over an acutely hostile and implacable Pakistan in every conflict since Partition. Both Israel and India have been victims of asymmetric warfare such as terrorism, which they continue to tackle with resolve.

Thanks to the dynamism infused in India’s foreign policy by the Indian Prime Minister, India’s interactions with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have witnessed an impressive upward trajectory in recent times, encompassing economic and security ties. High-level political engagement with the West Asian region has been another hallmark of the Narendra Modi government.

No doubt, mutual apprehensions about Iran have nudged Israel and the Gulf states closer. Israel continues to look beyond the confines of its immediate region for greater economic and diplomatic Lebensraum. The Indo-Pacific region too is fast emerging as a



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

prime focus of its endeavours.

While Israel established diplomatic ties with China at the same time as with India (January 1992), their relations have been primarily limited to the economic realm due to the American embargo on selling sophisticated weapons systems to Beijing. Israel, however, is expanding its arms sales to India and to countries in Southeast Asia.

Under a changing rubric, Israel is also looking at increasing its diplomatic footprint in South Asia and beyond. Forging closer ties with populous Asian Muslim countries such as Bangladesh and Indonesia would help it to gain greater legitimacy in the Islamic world.

Investment in the Arab world

Pakistan, however, is a different kettle of fish. The president of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, Prof. Efraim Inbar, recently published an opinion piece in the Israeli newspaper, *Haaretz*, titled ‘Israel would welcome ties with Pakistan - Should India Worry?’ (<https://bit.ly/2lWr8EE>). He argues that Pa-

ketan’s national interests would better be served by having ties with Israel, particularly since Israel carries weight in Washington and could perhaps mediate on recurring U.S.-Pakistan tensions. Concerns regarding Iran were also cited as a point of convergence.

A rapprochement between Israel and Pakistan appears to be far-fetched. The fly in the ointment is that Pakistan is considered the “sword-arm” of the Sunni world. Islamabad has invested considerably in the security of the Arab monarchies, including in Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Pakistani military units have been stationed in these countries to promote internal stability. Pakistani leaders such as Nawaz Sharif have sought and received refuge in the Arabian Peninsula.

Pakistan has used the platform provided by the OIC to drum up support for its stand on Kashmir, just as the OIC has done for the Palestinian issue. If Pakistan were to establish diplomatic ties with Israel, it would dilute its Islamic credentials and lead to a weakened support base within the OIC in Kashmir, a point acknowledged by Pakistani commentator Ayesha Siddiqi in an opinion article in the same newspaper following Prof. Inbar’s piece. The regime in Pakistan would also face the heat from its many domestic conservative Islamist groups. More importantly, in a recent interaction with the media, military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor refuted the possibility in response to a query

from the ancillaries of the automobile industry, many other industries are declining fairly rapidly too – examples are diamond cutting and polishing, textiles and garments, and several Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Crisis in agriculture

All this has affected trading and business units. Agriculture is in crisis today on account of rising costs of inputs and low prices of produces, and low public investments in this sector. Again, agricultural real wages are in decline and non-farm wages are constant if not declining; urban wages are also declining in recent years. As a consequence of all these developments, there is a crash in the aggregate demand in the economy.

What is needed urgently is for the government to increase public expenditure in investing in agriculture – in infrastructure, inputs, extension, marketing and storage and training – and in providing profitable prices to farmers. It should also raise funds for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to push up demand by following a Keynesian approach.

It should raise public employment by filling all vacant sanctioned posts in the Central and State governments, which would be around 2.5 million jobs. The government should also regularise contract, casual and “honorary” jobs and make them regular jobs. Increasing additional jobs for ensuring basic health and good quality education up to secondary level to all so that any meaningful skill formation is possible should

Fall in demand

What we witness, however, is that public expenditure is declining continuously in the last few years, As the Centre For Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd. has pointed out, public expenditure has declined to the minimum in the last five years. Steps such as rolling back some budgeted tax proposals, providing a stimulus package to industries, raising foreign direct investment flows, reducing Goods and Services Tax to help industries are not likely to increase much aggregate demand in the economy. Also, reduction in repo rate by the Reserve Bank of India and asking banks to pass on reduced rates to customers, recapitalisation of banks by ₹70,000 crore to raise liquidity in the economy and other steps to ease credit flows to the economy are all supply side measures; the real problem is a crash in the aggregate demand.

Let us hope that the government looks at the weaker sectors and sections to get out of the crisis if not to improve their well-being.

Indira Hirway is Professor of Economics, Centre for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad

about Pakistan’s recognition of Israel, stating that such stories were part of a propaganda war aimed at turning the general public against the country’s military.

The Iran factor

Iran is recognised as a potent threat by Israel and the Shia-Sunni divide in Pakistan is frequently a point of friction between Iran and Pakistan. However, as Ms. Siddiqi notes, Israel cannot expect Pakistan to be used against neighbouring Iran and risk the dangers of escalation in sectarian conflict, given that more than 20% of its population is Shia. Pakistan is unlikely to take any steps that could rock its relations with Iran. In April 2015, Pakistan’s Parliament had turned down Riyadh’s request to join a Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen to fight the Houthi rebels supported by Iran.

India has successfully walked a tightrope between Israel and Palestine, and Israel may well hope to do so between Pakistan and India. However, it is not in Israel’s interest to seek diplomatic ties with a state that sponsors terrorism.

While it is the sovereign right of nation states to decide such matters, it appears that the idea of diplomatic ties between Israel and Pakistan remains, for now, a pie in the sky.

Sujan R. Chino, a former Ambassador who has served in Saudi Arabia, is Director General of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Language politics

The Narendra Modi government 2.0 is becoming a perennial headache. It seems to have a multitude of anti-people policies and programmes in its kitty and releases them one after another, having scant regard for the sufferings of the people. After the abrogation of Kashmir’s special status and the release of the expensive National Register of Citizens, the Home Minister is hinting at a ‘One Nation, One Language’ policy (Front page, “Only Hindi can work to unite country, says Amit Shah”, Sept. 15). He could not have made this statement without the concurrence of the Prime Minister. The two are like Scylla and Charybdis, taking the country from one crisis to another. India is a multilingual country consisting of people speaking multiple languages and dialects and

yet living in harmony. The mother tongue is a marker of identity of every individual and the Centre would do well not to tinker with the right of an Indian to communicate in his mother tongue.

MANOHARAN MUTHUSWAMY, Nabadwip, West Bengal

■ The BJP seems to have either ignored or forgotten the upheavals that rocked Madras in the 1960s consequent to the then-Central government’s decision to impose Hindi. Sensing the strong opposition to the move in South India, the Centre gave an assurance that English will continue to be the associate official language. One is at sea as to why the Home Minister has made a statement on this topic now. Doesn’t the government have more urgent problems to be addressed?

MANI NATARAJAN, Chennai

More transparency

At a time when aggressive efforts are being made to reduce the iconic Right to Information (RTI) Act to sheer insignificance, the Rajasthan government’s launching of ‘Jan Soochna Portal’ is laudable. Simultaneously, it is an honour to the citizens of Rajasthan, which occupies the pride of place as one of the first in the country to witness the beginning of the epic movement for RTI in the 1990s. The current move will undoubtedly lead to greater transparency in government schemes, and thus set Rajasthan on the path to becoming a corruption-free State. This will, above all, go to win the people’s faith in the working of the State government. The Centre and other State governments must take a leaf out of Rajasthan’s book. They must understand that it is transparency that ultimately wins the common people’s

hearts (Editorial, “Effort worth emulation”, Sept. 16).  
SAMUL HASSAN QUADRI, Bikaner, Rajasthan

A project stalled

Train 18’s launch was a proud moment for the country. The whole process of design and manufacture cost only around ₹100 crore, half of what a similar project would cost in many nations. It was no less an achievement than Chandrayaan and arguably of far more immediate practical value for Indians. Many countries, particularly those in South-East Asia, even evinced interest in purchasing the model. One would have thought that an achievement of this magnitude would receive the wholehearted backing of the government. But, incredibly, it got shelved, due to issues like non-transparency in procurement of parts. Surely, if there were irregularities, they could have been addressed without throwing

the baby out with the bathwater (Op-Ed page, “Mission successful, end product defunct”, Sept. 16)?  
SUNIL K. S., Gudalur, Tamil Nadu

Concerns of Kashmiris

It is heartening to see grassroots-level coverage of the situation in Kashmir. One feels solidarity with the average Kashmiri, whose fundamental right to exist peacefully has been repeatedly violated. While the newspaper has done its duty in highlighting the concerns of citizens there against the perceived high-handedness of the state, one

wonders if these voices of dissent would elicit a response from the corridors of power. Here, the balanced and sensitive approach of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the issue comes to mind. Without the goodwill of the Kashmiris, no fundamental policy decision regarding their homeland can succeed. And such sensitivity and realisation is what differentiates statesmen from mere politicians (Ground Zero, “Valley of discontent”, Sept. 14).

ROSEN BRAR, Patiala, Punjab

MORE LETTERS ONLINE: [www.hindu.com/opinion/letters/](http://www.hindu.com/opinion/letters/)

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The graphic that accompanied a Sports page story “Chance for India to set the record straight” (Sept. 15, 2019) erroneously said that Virat Kohli is yet to score a half-century against SA. Actually, he had scored a half century against South Africa in 2014 WCCT20.

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers’ Editor’s office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail: [readerseditor@thehindu.co.in](mailto:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in); Mail: Readers’ Editor, The Hindu, Kasturji Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers’ Editor are on [www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com)



# The debut of ‘Periyar’, through a story

The moniker was first used for the reformer, whose birth anniversary is being observed today, in 1934



The earliest reference in Tamil literature to E.V. Ramasamy as ‘Periyar’ was in Pudumaippithan’s short story, ‘Puthiya Nandan’ (‘The New Nandan’), which appeared in the weekly *Manikodi* on July 22, 1934. To think of it, it is least surprising that Pudumaippithan was the first writer to refer to the leader as ‘Periyar’, for he was a pioneer modernist, and that the story was carried in *Manikodi*, the pre-eminent literary journal of the times that provided space for new writing.

‘Puthiya Nandan’ is narrated as a sequel to the well-known story of Nandanar. In the standard version handed down from Sekkizhar’s *Periya Puranam* (12th century) and fleshed out in Gopalakrishna Bharati’s *Nandanar Charithira Keerthanai* (mid-19th century), Nandan is a Dalit serf bound to a Brahmin landlord. His devotion for Siva impels him to seek *darshan* in the Chidambaram temple, out of bounds for him due to his caste position. After many travails and a final ordeal by fire, he becomes one with the lord, and is deified as Thirunalaiappovar Nayanar.

**Serfdom despite salvation**  
Pudumaippithan begins his story, set in the same Adhanur village, centuries later: “A long time had passed since Nanda Samban had passed through the cleansing fire to become Nanda Nayanar.” The entire story is narrated in such sentences, brimming with irony and sarcasm. The narrative is fast-paced, reaching its denouement in barely six pages. And as the various allusions make it clear, an understanding and enjoyment of the story is predicated on a knowledge of Sekkizhar and Gopalakrishna Bharati. Pudumaippithan creates new characters, among whom Pavada is central.

Adhanur is now a sleepy place, blissfully unaware of even the advent of British rule. Nandan’s canonisation notwithstanding, the Dalit quarters, the *cheri*, have still not attained salvation. Brahmins continue to



A portrait of ‘Periyar’ E.V. Ramasamy at the T.N. Assembly. •DIPR, TAMIL NADU

lease out their lands to the Dalits, as before. The inhabitants remain bound to not only the Brahmin landlords but the absentee British sahibs as well.

A descendant of the Brahmin of *Periya Puranam* times, the landlord Viswanatha Shrauti is also a pensioned sub-registrar, his loyalties torn between the British empire and the eternal *sanatana dharma*. His only son, Ramanathan, an MA, captivated by Gandhian ideals, has courted arrest during the civil disobedience movement.

In the *cheri* lives Karuppan, a blind old man. In his youth, he unknowingly stepped into the pond in the *agraharam*, and gulped some water. Hell broke loose and Viswanatha Shrauti, then a young man, gave Karuppan such a thrashing that he lost his eyesight. But to make amends, he appointed Karuppan to watch his garden, let him build a hut and arranged his marriage. Karuppan’s firstborn Pavada is of the same age as the landlord’s son and also his boyhood friend.

One day, Rev. John Iyer, a Vellalar Christian pastor, visits the Adhanur *cheri* to spread the word of god. Impressed by Pavada’s intellect, he offers incentives for his conversion. Karuppan has always wished for his son to have English education, and therefore, agrees. Pavada gets enrolled in school by John Iyer and turns out to be a brilliant student, clearing his school final. More success seems to be in store. But the good father in heaven apparently has other ideas.

John Iyer has a daughter, whose

friendship with Pavada turns into romance. Believing in John Iyer’s preaching about Christianity not entertaining the inequities of the Hindu religion, Pavada, who now goes by the name of Daniel John, proposes marriage. In response, John Iyer, deploying the choicest casteist slurs, throws him out of his house.

A heartbroken Daniel now turns to Catholicism, and spends some years in a seminary. But ‘the unnatural desires’ of the priests and the claustrophobic atmosphere of the church leave him disillusioned.

**Joining hands with Periyar**  
He then quits the church and joins Periyar’s Self-Respect Movement. Now adopting the name of Comrade Narasingam, he becomes its staunch campaigner.

On returning to Adhanur, Narasingam is overwhelmed by the thought of emancipating his village. Meanwhile, Ramanathan, the Brahmin landlord’s son, too has returned home. Much to his father’s chagrin, he is now involved in ‘Harijan uplift’.

On one moonlit night, Ramanathan hears a splash in the well, and jumps in; it is Karuppan’s daughter. Natural instincts take over, and a remorseful Ramanathan later promises to marry her. However, both the girl and her father dismiss the idea as outlandish.

At this time, Gandhi is on his ‘Harijan tour’ with a planned five-minute stopover in Adhanur. Viswanatha Shrauti is ready to refute Gandhi’s thesis that untouchability has no scriptural sanction. His objective is

twofold: to defeat Gandhi’s ideas, and to demonstrate the glories of *sanatana dharma* to his son.

Comrade Narasingam too wants to confront Gandhi, for not going far enough on the ‘untouchability question’. Now in the know of his sister’s affair, he tries to persuade his father to marry her to Ramanathan but is unable to convince him. A furious Narasingam swears to expose the Brahmin’s deviousness.

A huge crowd mills around the stage. The blind Karuppan stumbles on the path, hoping to catch a glimpse of the Mahatma. Ramanathan, who has made the arrangements for Gandhi’s stopover, and Comrade Narasingam also hurry to the event. At that moment, as the Madras Mail speeds past, the two notice that the old man is on its track. As they attempt to save Karuppan, all three are run over, their blood mixed together. Pudumaippithan concludes by asking: Among the three, who is the ‘New Nandan’?

**After the Poona Pact**  
Periyar’s movement at that time was relatively new, and he had only recently returned from a transformative tour of the Soviet Union and Europe. By this time, he had become a strident critic of Gandhi. The Poona Pact was less than two years old, and had accentuated the differences between Periyar, who backed B.R. Ambedkar, and Gandhi, who in response to Ambedkar’s challenge, had started the Harijan campaign. This set the context for ‘Puthiya Nandan’.

While Pudumaippithan’s sympathies are clear – he can only be on the side of the oppressed – he doesn’t take sides in the story and keeps a critical distance while representing all ideological strands fairly. He refers to E.V. Ramasami as ‘Periyar Ramasami’ – a title few at that time granted to the radical. In November 1932, Periyar had given a call to people to drop honorifics and urged the use of ‘Thozhar’ (Comrade), the appellation by which Pudumaippithan refers to the Narasingam in his story. No wonder C. Rajagopalachari, on reading one of Pudumaippithan’s stories, wondered if the author was not a ‘suna-mana’ or ‘a self-respector’!

A.R. Venkatachalapathy is a historian of the Dravidian movement

# Protect the messenger

The regional press in India is especially vulnerable to administrative excesses, political pressure and corruption



On September 2, Krishna Kumar Singh landed up at the post-mortem facility in Chunar, Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, for a routine assignment. There he noticed the family of a woman, who had allegedly hanged herself, misbehaving with the doctors. As the scuffle grew, the staff called for additional security. The gathering slowly turned into a mob.

Given his 18 years of experience as a tehsil correspondent for a Hindi daily, Singh’s instinct was to record the scene on camera. His action promptly angered the mob. Unlike Pawan Jaiswal, the journalist who had been charged the same day with criminal conspiracy for reporting that a primary school in the State was serving rotis and salt in its mid-day meal to children, Singh was physically assaulted in front of helpless policemen. He was whisked away to safety only after much humiliation. Though the U.P. police lodged an FIR against the assaulters, which Singh claims included supporters of a State BJP Minister, no arrests have been made yet.

This is not new to Singh. Over the years, his reports on corruption, including on a cartridges scam and illegal land allocation, have sent officials to prison. When the Samajwadi Party government was in power, Singh recalls being thrashed in a police station by the land mafia. But the latest assault has especially shaken him. Even his organisation does not support him now, he says.

**Threats, abuse and intimidation**  
There are many regional journalists like Singh in India who work at the district and tehsil levels in the Hindi hinterland without proper security. In exchange for doing their job, they face intimidation, threats, abuse, coercion and false police cases. A year ago, when Jaiswal reported on illegal mining, the land mafia apparently warned him that “even the brakes of trucks can fail”. Such journalists often have little organisational backing or hope that their grievances will be redressed. Unlike journalists in the English language media, they are more vulnerable as regional bureaus are known to often turn the other way if they land in a controversy.

For a large and politically significant State like U.P., stringers and credible reporters at the lowest administrative levels are extremely important for State- or national-level news organisations. Away from the safety net that

is Lucknow, it is these reporters who handle all the risks that come with reporting on contentious issues which go on to occupy the national spotlight. Despite this, they are poorly paid, have few rights or statutory entitlements, are randomly sacked, and sometimes not even issued proper identity cards. This leaves them vulnerable to administrative excesses, political pressure and corruption.

“Earlier, mainstream media houses recruited professionals like lawyers and teachers to report at the district level for a nominal wage,” says Nagendra Pratap, former Editor of a Hindi daily in Varanasi and Gorakhpur. “But over time, newspapers and TV channels have started roping in contributors who are often poorly trained and lack other sources of income, without upgrading their pay structure.” This pushes some journalists to seek official and political patronage for survival. Hemant Tiwari, Uttar Pradesh Accredited Correspondents Committee president, admits that at the district level even the staff reporters of well-known Hindi dailies are asked to bring in advertisement revenue, while stringers work for commissions.

The Jaiswal episode brought a lot of condemnation for the U.P. government and police, but it has not been a deterrent. A few days later, the Azamgarh police arrested a stringer working with a Hindi daily after he clicked photographs of children mopping the floor of their school. The police alleged that the scribe was engaging in extortion, but his colleagues contended that he was falsely implicated due to a grudge nursed against him by the local station house officer. On September 7, five journalists in Bijpur were booked for ‘promoting enmity’ after they reported that a Dalit family had put its ‘house on sale’ after being denied water from a village hand pump. The police alleged that the reporters had concocted the story to show the administration in poor light.

**Showing solidarity**  
In all these cases, journalists staged protests, but little has been achieved. The daily nature of news, conflicting business interests, toothless journalist organisations, and a disconnect between the mainstream English language press and the regional press hinders any united and sustained call for action. According to the 2019 World Press Freedom Index, India ranks 140 out of 180 countries. At such a bleak time, it is crucial for the media to rise above these factors, show solidarity towards its own, and constantly question the excesses of state power, while improving working conditions for those on the margins. After all, what is at stake is truth itself.

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# The preventable Bengal famine

The British-Indian administration made efforts to create records rather than take resolute action

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN

As the first half of the 20th century fades from public memory, countries devastated by the Germans in the Second World War, like Poland and Greece, are becoming more strident in their demands for massive compensation from Germany.

Behind the ongoing spat between the Koreans and the Japanese is Japan’s refusal to atone for the humiliations it inflicted on the Korean people through the first half of the 20th century.

In sharp contrast, there is hardly a voice, let alone a movement, in India to hold the British accountable for the greatest tragedy that befell the country in the 20th century under their watch – the Bengal famine, which was at its worst through 1943.

The famine took half as many lives as the Holocaust did. Sadly, it continues to be perceived as a tragic occurrence and not an atrocity. Unlike Jallianwala Bagh, it doesn’t have a remembrance day or a noteworthy memorial.

**Foodgrain was available**  
The Bengal famine was gruesome. Everyday thousands of emaciated dead had to be removed from the streets of Calcutta by police and government-funded corpse disposal organisations. As more of the starving poured into the city from the devastated countryside, the best the Chief Minister of Bengal, Khawaja Nazimuddin, could come up with was to write to the Governor that he proposed to have them removed from the city by force.

It is good copy to hold the U.K. Prime Minister Winston Churchill solely responsible for the occurrence of the famine while ignoring the fact that enough food was available within India to have prevented its occurrence. As the Earl of Huntington observed, in a parliamentary debate in the House of Lords on October 20, 1943, while loss of the Burma rice and the cyclone of 1942 were strong “contributory factors” to the famine, the fact remained that “these losses were largely made good by the exceptional crop in Northern India in the spring of 1943”.

Voluminous official records from

that period available in the India Office Records section of the British Library also establish that the famine was not the outcome of a lack of foodgrain. Rather, political machinations, greed, hoarding and bureaucratic bungling on a massive scale stymied efforts to procure and transport grain from where it was available – Punjab and the United Provinces – to starving Bengal in quick time.

Even the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, acknowledged this in his letter of September 27, 1943 to the prevaricating Governor of Punjab Sir Bertrand Glancy. He demanded that Glancy act decisively to procure and move grain, charging “that the Punjab ministers and the Punjab cultivators are engaged in blackmailing the starving peasants of Bengal so as to make inordinate profits at a time when they have already made very substantial profits indeed”.

Even as the famine began to abate in 1944, the Intelligence Bureau was alerting government of the possibility of its recurrence, if adequate measures were not taken “to prevent hoarding, enforce the orders relating to the maximum prices of foodstuffs and introduce rationing in the larger towns”.

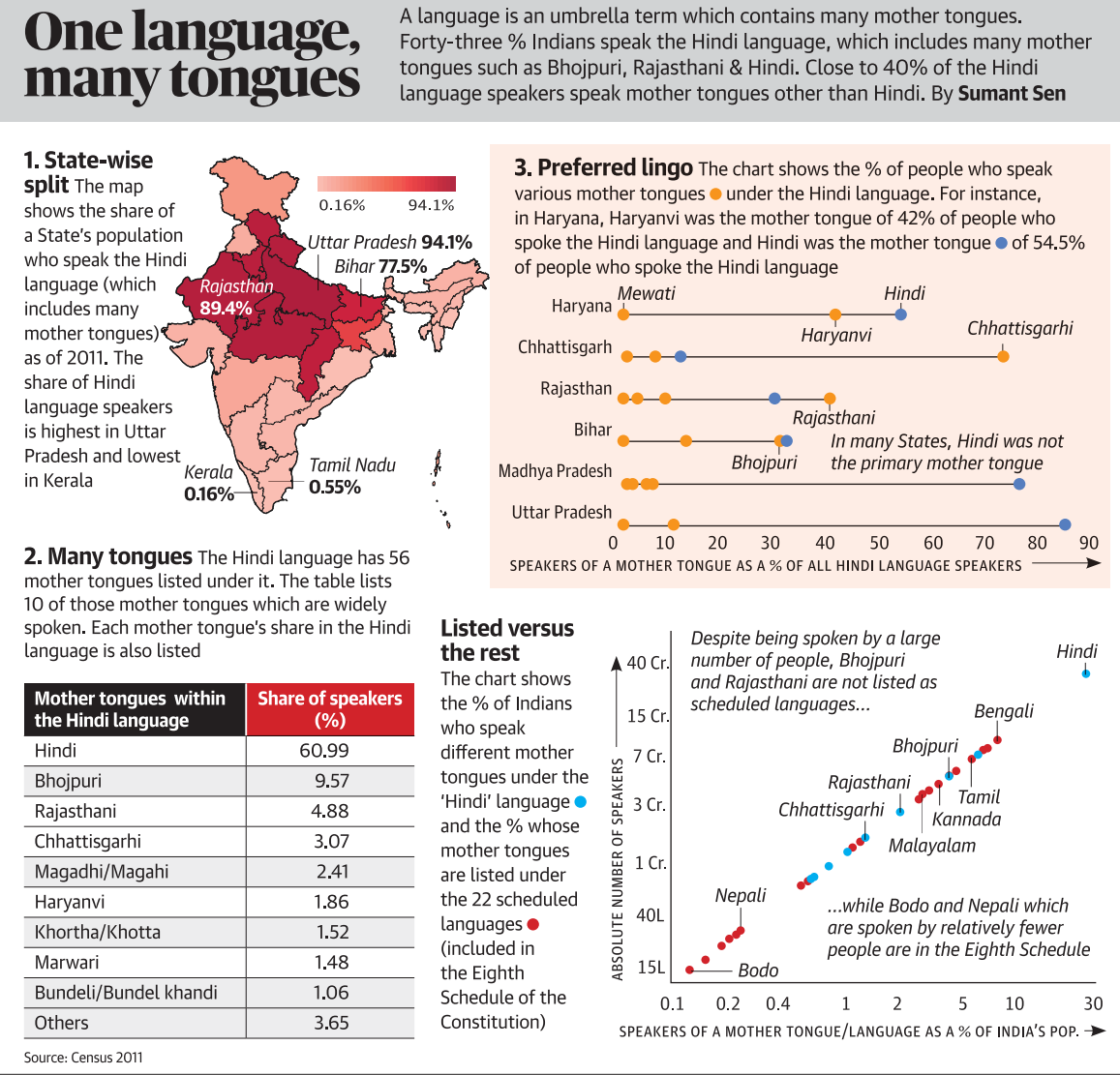
**Keeping the files healthy**  
A careful reading of official papers establishes that at all levels of British-Indian administration the effort was more to create records and “keep the files healthy”, to save ‘official’ skin at some future enquiry, rather than to get to grips with the problem through resolute action.

This was confirmed by Lord Strabolgi’s spot-on observation in the House of Lords that nothing contributed more to the occurrence of the disaster than “the greatest, the most hidebound, indeed ironbound bureaucracy in the world, that of the Government of India, suffering that fatal disease of bureaucracy, procrastination. They consider too long, they set up too many Committees, they talk too long about what they are going to do, and in the meanwhile this terrible famine was galloping towards them.”

Uday Balakrishnan teaches at the Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru



## DATA POINT



The **Hindu**.  
**FROM THE ARCHIVES**  
**FIFTY YEARS AGO** SEPTEMBER 17, 1969  
U.S. to withdraw more troops

President Nixon announced to-day [Sept 16] that the United States will withdraw an additional 35,000 troops from South Viet Nam. The new withdrawal will be made before December 15 and will bring down U.S. troop strength in South Viet Nam to 484,000 men. With this the United States will have withdrawn a total 65,000 troops. The U.S. decision comes after weeks of debate within the Administration, some of it conducted in public to the embarrassment of Mr. Nixon, over whether or not the U.S. should continue to withdraw troops unilaterally. The confusion had reached a peak during the last three weeks when widely differing interpretations were put on Mr. Nixon’s decision, first to postpone further withdrawals and second, to halt heavy bomber raids on Viet Cong positions in South Viet Nam last week for 36 hours and then resuming them again, without explaining what the gesture was intended to achieve. There had also been reports of serious differences between Washington and Saigon over whether or not to respond to Hanoi’s call for a cease-fire during Ho Chi Minh’s funeral. The Generals in the Pentagon, meanwhile, are now said to favour a policy of fighting it out while the civilians in the State Department have stood out for a negotiated compromise political settlement.

**A HUNDRED YEARS AGO** SEPT. 17, 1919.  
Gorgeous Oriental Costumes.

The “Daily Chronicle” in its issue of the 8th August wrote as follows: – Gorgeous Oriental costumes blazed in the rich and sombre corridors of the India Office yesterday. The occasion was an unprecedented one (writes a “Daily Chronicle” representative), and was really a direct appeal by distinguished Indian ladies who are permanent residents in this country for the enfranchisement of Indian women. A long line of motor-cars drew up at the office of the Secretary of State for India during the afternoon, and from them descended in native costumes a notable assembly of Indian ladies, whose work in art, literature, politics, and finance is well-known in both hemispheres. Some of the ladies wore a number of beautifully jewelled Indian ornaments. The deputation, headed by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the famous Indian poetess, was shown into one of the handsomely appointed committee rooms, where they were received by Mr. Montagu, the Secretary of State, and Sir Thomas Holden, the Under Secretary for India.



FROM PAGE ONE

## Govt. data on J&K terror justify lockdown, says SC

Initially, during the hearing, the Bench suggested that Ms. Bhasin and the other petitioners against the lockdown approach the Jammu and Kashmir High Court. It termed their problems like lack of Internet and mobile connectivity “local”.

“But this [lockdown] is by the Union of India. Public transport is not functioning, there is no way to communicate. Only a few landlines work. Media freedom is crippled. This is the 43rd day,” senior lawyer Vrinda Grover argued for Ms. Bhasin.

Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde said the least the Kashmiris expected now was for “a child to go to school quietly and the mother to be assured the child returns home safely”.

The CJI later took a serious view of an oral submission made by senior advocate Husseifa Ahmadi, appearing for child rights activists Enakshi Ganguli and Dr. Shanta Sinha, that it was difficult to access the J&K High Court. Mr. Ahmadi made the statement when

the court asked him to approach the High Court. The petition had tried to draw judicial attention to media reports of detention of children aged between 10 and 18.

Instead, the CJI sought a report from the High Court Chief Justice on the basis of Mr. Ahmadi’s statement. He said he would speak to the Chief Justice to verify the claim and, if necessary, even go there.

“This is a serious statement you have made. You say it is difficult to go to the High Court. We will seek a report from the Chief Justice on this allegation. If required, I will go to Jammu and Kashmir and find out from the Chief Justice,” the CJI addressed Mr. Ahmadi.

Mr. Mehta interceded to say that “every court is open”.

The CJI retorted, “We have not asked you, Mr. Mehta. We will see what the Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court says.” He warned that if the claim proved to be untrue, accountability would follow.

## Farooq Abdullah detained under PSA

However, under the habeas corpus law, any person can file a petition and the liability is on the police to produce the missing person in court as proof of his well-being.

Home Minister Amit Shah had told Parliament on August 6 that Mr. Abdullah was neither detained nor arrested and was in the Valley on his own free will. However, in an interview to television channels on the same day, Mr. Abdullah had said Mr. Shah was lying and that he had been put under house arrest. Hours later, the security officials posted at his residence were suspended.

Even though there were no formal orders yet, Mr. Abdullah has been placed under house arrest like hundreds of other political activists since August 4 night.

An official explained that after courts objected to the sweeping powers under PSA, in 2015 new rules were notified and some authority was given to the Home Department to issue such orders that was earlier done by the Divisional Commissioner or District Magis-

trate. “As per the latest order, the issuing authority cannot mention the period of detention in the order, which earlier used to be six months-one year. The default is 12 days detention now, after that the Home department has to ratify the notification and present the case before the Advisory Board. If the department concurs he could be released after 12 days or can be kept in detention for minimum three months. Beyond that, the department will have to seek the permission of the advisory board,” the official said.

Mr. Vaiko, who is the general secretary of the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, explained to the court that the event is organised annually “on the occasion of the birthday of Thiru. C.N. Annadurai, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in the spirit of peaceful democratic debate and discussion so as to strengthen the unity and integrity of India”.

The petition said Mr. Abdullah had attended the previous year’s event.

## Former Andhra Pradesh Speaker found dead

A senior leader of the Telugu Desam Party, Mr. Rao, who served as Minister in the Cabinets of the late N.T. Rama Rao and N. Chandrababu Naidu, was facing serious allegations of misuse of power. Last month, he was hospitalised in Guntur after he suffered a cardiac arrest.

Family members informed the police that for the last few days he was stressed out due to political and family compulsions and

that could have forced him to resort to the extreme step. “We have to wait for the autopsy report to know the cause of death,” the officer said.

Asked with whom he spoke last, Mr. Srinivas said around 8.30 a.m. Mr. Rao spoke to someone over the phone and they are verifying it.

*(People with suicidal tendencies in Hyderabad can dial Roshni helpline no. 66202000 for counselling.)*

## Four of Muslim family injured in attack in Aligarh

The victims were admitted to the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College of Aligarh Muslim University. The family had come to the city for the treatment of their children.

Muqarram Ali, a relative of Mr. Khan, told *The Hindu*: “Taufeeq was attacked with a stone, causing a head injury. Sahim and the women were punched. During the attack, Sahim’s daughter, who has a psychiatric condition, fainted on the platform.”

Mr. Ali claimed that the people who attacked them

came from outside and were not travelling on the train.

**‘Police responded late’**  
They didn’t board the train either. They came, targeted the family whose women were wearing burqas and fled when the police chased them,” he said.

“It was Taufeeq’s first visit to the city, and this was how he was welcomed,” Mr. Ali added, refusing to blame any particular political or religious outfit. He alleged that the police responded late. Else, the attackers could have been arrested.

# Ayodhya parties want to resume talks

Mediation was abruptly dropped in July due to resistance from certain blocks across the religious divide

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Ayodhya mediation committee on Monday filed a short memorandum informing the Supreme Court that parties across the Hindu-Muslim religious divide have approached it with a request to resume talks to amicably resolve the over 70-year-old Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title dispute.

The memorandum said the parties had suggested that mediation could continue even as the Supreme Court continues to hear the Ayodhya dispute appeals.

The parties have suggested to the mediators – former Supreme Court judge F.M.I. Kalifulla, spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravishankar and senior advocate Sriram Panchu – that talks should resume



from the point where it was abruptly dropped at the last minute on July 29 due to resistance from certain blocks across the religious divide, causing heartburn among some other stakeholders.

The Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi, hearing the Ayodhya appeals, announced the failure to reach

a final settlement in a court hearing on August 2.

Adjudication of the pending appeals, which were kept in limbo due to the mediation, commenced from August 6. Over 20 court hearings are already over by now.

The mediation effort was initiated by a Constitution Bench led by the CJI on March 8 in a bid to heal

## ‘Live-stream the hearings’

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court asked its Registry by what time it could make a system for live-streaming the Ayodhya appeals operational if permission is given. “The Registry to inform as to if this court

orders for live-streaming of the Ayodhya matter, what time would be taken to make the system operational,” a Bench led by CJI Ranjan Gogoi recorded in a short order.

The order came on a petition by activist K.N. Govindacharya.

wever, things took a sudden turn when an application was filed by Gopal Singh Visharad, an original claimant who had filed a title suit in 1950, through his survivor Rajendra Singh. The application claimed that the committee was making no progress, and asked the Bench to commence hearing the Ayodhya appeals.

## P.K. Mishra emerges PMO power centre

MAHESH LANGA  
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister’s newly elevated Principal Secretary P.K. Mishra has emerged as the most powerful bureaucrat handling the most important matters in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) as per the distribution of work among the three top bureaucrats: Dr. Mishra, NSA Ajit Kumar Doval and Principal Adviser P.K. Sinha.

As per the work distribution order issued by Shrikar K. Pardeshi, Joint Secretary in the PMO, Dr. Mishra will look into policy issues and matters relating to the Ministries of Personnel, Law, Appointments Committee of Cabinet and other appointments, Cabinet Secretariat, listing of Cabinet items, anti-corruption unit, PMO establishment and all important policy issues and matters.

His predecessor Nripendra Misra used to look after policy matters but not appointments and the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), which were being dealt with by Dr. Mishra as Additional Principal Secretary – the post appears to have been done away with now.

# Cong. to discuss slowdown with Opposition parties

Meet is also likely to address issues like NRC for other States

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI

The Congress is likely to convene a meeting of Opposition parties to discuss the economic crisis. It will be the first such meeting, outside Parliament, after their defeat in the Lok Sabha election.

The date has not been fixed, but the Congress has started consultations on the contours.

“It is expected to be held in the last week of this month. Right now, we have had preliminary discussions. The state of economy is in a shambles. The Opposition parties have to come together on the issue of a huge lay-off in the auto sector and the closure of many manufacturing units,” a top Congress leader said.

Last week, at a meeting chaired by Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi, the party decided to stage protests nationwide from October 15 to 25 and hold conventions to highlight the “slowdown” from September 20 to 30.

## ‘Stimulus package will deepen crisis further’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Five Left parties will be holding a joint convention on Friday on deepening economic crisis and massive job loss.

The Left parties – Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, All India Forward Bloc and Revolutionary Socialist Party – together announced the same on Monday. The convention will plan out national level protest actions.

**‘Purchasing power’**  
“The recent slew of measures announced by the Finance Minister amounting

over ₹70,000 crores, far from providing relief, will only deepen the crisis further. What is required is to increase public investments in a big way and build our much needed infrastructure while generating jobs and increasing the purchasing power in the hands of the people,” the parties said in a joint statement here.

The convention will draw up concrete plans for protest actions all over the country.

“The Left parties appeal to all democratic forces, who are prepared to join these protest actions, to come forward and strengthen the people’s movement,” the parties said.

## ‘Collegium has decided on Justice Kureshi elevation’

It will be announced shortly, says CJI

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi on Monday said the Supreme Court Collegium had taken a decision on the government’s communication to reconsider its recommendation to appoint Justice Akil Kureshi as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

The CJI said the the Collegium’s decision would be published on the Supreme Court website shortly. It was only recently that the go-

vernment returned Justice Kureshi’s file to the Collegium, which recommended his name on May 10.

The CJI’s statement came while hearing a petition filed by the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association on the fate of Justice Kureshi’s recommendation.

In a previous hearing, senior advocate Fali Nariman, who represented the association, criticised the unexplained delay by the government in taking a call on Justice Kureshi.

## NGOs must not be ‘guilty of conversion’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Office-bearers, key functionaries and members of NGOs, receiving foreign funds, will have to declare before the government that they were not prosecuted or convicted for converting anyone from one faith to another, a Home Ministry notification said on Monday.

It has been made mandatory for NGO “office-bearers and key functionaries and members” to certify that they have not been “prosecuted or convicted” for “conversion” from one faith to another and for creating “communal tension and disharmony”, according to the

notification. Earlier, as per the FCRA 2010, only the applicants such as directors who were seeking permission to receive foreign contributions were required to make such a declaration.

**‘Propagating sedition’**  
In addition, every member of an NGO must also now, under oath, through an affidavit, certify that they have never been involved in “diverting” foreign funds or propagating “sedition” or “advocating violent means.”

This declaration, too, needs to be given by all members of an NGO, unlike earlier, when it had to be only given by the applicant.

# U.S. President to attend Modi event

It will help deepen ties: Washington

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON

Ending speculation around whether he will make a joint appearance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, U.S. President Donald Trump’s participation in the September 22 “Howdy, Modi!” diaspora event in Houston has been confirmed. The U.S. President will also address the gathering – expected to be in the “tens of thousands” as per the White House Press Secretary.

“It will be a great opportunity to emphasise the strong ties between the people of the United States and India, to reaffirm the strategic partnership between the world’s oldest and largest democracies, and to discuss ways to deepen their energy and trade relationship,” a statement from the Press Secretary said.

Over 50,000 people have registered for the event, which will be held at Houston’s NRG stadium. Mr. Trump’s possible attendance was first reported by *The Wire* on Saturday – which also said an announcement on the India-U.S. trade package (reports of which were carried by the media earlier) may be made

during the Houston event.

The joint appearance has been scheduled at a crucial time for U.S.-India ties. A number of U.S. lawmakers, almost all of them Democrats, have raised concerns around India’s revocation of special status for Kashmir in early August. The two countries are also attempting to resolve challenges in their trading relationship. With the U.S. presidential elections looming in 2020, Mr. Modi’s presence could also help Mr. Trump with the Indian-American vote.

India’s Ambassador to the U.S. Harsh Vardhan Shringla said: “The two leaders addressing the “Howdy Mody” event is historic and unprecedented. It reflects not only the closeness and comfort levels in the relationship but also the personal chemistry and friendship between Prime Minister Modi and President Trump.”

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, second-ranking member of the Democratic leadership in the House, will also address the gathering, the Ambassador said, adding that it reflected “strong bipartisan support” for India-U.S. relations.

# PM ‘delighted’ by Trump’s decision

‘It highlights the recognition of contribution of the Indian community to America’

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Welcoming the White House announcement that U.S. President Donald Trump will join the “Howdy, Modi!” event for Indian-Americans on September 22 in Houston, Texas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was “delighted” by the decision.

“The special gesture of President [Donald Trump] to join us in Houston highlights the strength of the relationship and recognition of the contribution of the Indian community to American society and economy,” Mr. Modi tweeted.

Organisers of the “Howdy, Modi!” event said they had been informed about the possibility of Mr. Trump at the event “8-10 days” ago, but had been told to wait for a formal White House announcement.



**Warm embrace:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi with U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House. ■ REUTERS/FILE

sure none of the protesters can gather too close to the venue. Officials have also been concerned about 20 U.S. Congressmen, mostly Democrat, who have written petitions to the U.S. President and the Congress criticising the government’s moves on Kashmir and demanding an end to detentions, and the communication lockdown. As a result, those involved in the event are also keen on ensuring “bipartisan support”, and stressed the number of Democrat and the Republican lawmakers who will attend, highlighting attendance of Senate majority leader and Democratic party member Steny Hoyer at the rally.

“This unique event brings together the President of the

world’s most influential democracy, the Prime Minister of the world’s largest democracy, and a bipartisan delegation of Governors, Members of Congress, Mayors, and other public officials,” a statement by the organisers, the Texas India forum said.

Details of the format of Mr. Trump’s appearance are still being worked out, said head of the BJP’s foreign affairs department, Vijay Chauthaiwale, who landed in Houston to make preparations just hours before the White House announcement. Mr. Modi has been previously joined by heads of state when he addressed the Indian diaspora in Canada, the U.K., Israel, Kenya and Sweden. It also remains to be seen whether Mr. Modi

will speak primarily in Hindi during the event, as he did in the previous events in other countries.

**‘Sign of growing ties’**  
Members of the Indian immigrant community in Houston said they were particularly happy about Mr. Trump’s decision, as one of the themes of the event, expected to be showcased in a film at the beginning is “navigating the complexity of having a hyphenated identity as an Indian and an American”.

The Houston rally had been proposed in 2017 as well, when Mr. Modi last visited the U.S., but had been put off over concerns that a large gathering of immigrants would send a problematic message to the Trump administration which has taken a very tough line on immigration.

“As an Indian-American, I am proud to see Houston preparing to welcome PM Modi. Houston is the energy capital of the world and the most diverse city in America,” Indo-American Chamber of Commerce founder Jagdip Ahluwalia told *The Hindu*. “The news of our President, Donald Trump joining this is a sign of the growing importance of the U.S.-India relationship.”



Amit Shah reviews J&K situation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The two-hour meeting was attended by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba among others. The Home Minister was given a detailed presentation on the prevailing security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly along the International Border and the Line of Control. Normal life remained affected in the Kashmir Valley for the 43rd consecutive day on Monday following the dilution of Article 370 on August 5. Most of the shops remained shut and public transport was off the roads. Governor Satyapal Malik called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and apprised him of the situation.

NC chief confined to one room

Family cook asked to leave the house, visitors require legal permission

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR
National Conference president and Srinagar MP Farooq Abdullah will be confined to a single room in his multi-storey house on the high-profile Gupkar Road as Srinagar's Deputy Commissioner Shahid Iqbal Choudhary approved his detention under the Public Safety Act. Senior government officials told The Hindu that the government had decided to designate the residence of the three-time Chief Minister as a subsidiary jail "to implement the jail manual and provide him all the rights of a prisoner", which include access to legal aid. With the PSA slapped on Mr. Abdullah to formalise his arrest after 43 days of house detention, the police started a process to seal all other rooms in his residence and evict the family cook, who had been with him during his house detention. Only one room, with a bathroom,



Tight seal: Police and CRPF personnel stand guard near the residence of Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar.

will be spared for Mr. Abdullah and "his meetings with anyone from outside will be restricted and only those with a legal order will be allowed". The controversial Act, which was termed a "lawless law" by the rights group Amnesty International India, was introduced by the government of Mr. Abdullah's father, Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, in 1975 to contain timber smuggling in the State. Of late, it has been slapped on the most senior separatist leaders and protesters to detain them for a prolonged period. A person booked under the PSA can be held without trial for three months. The Act's provisions were

amended on several occasions by the NC government in the past. Party vice-president Omar Abdullah, in his public speeches earlier this year, had promised to "repeal the PSA" in case his party came to power. All lanes leading to Gupkar Road were sealed on Monday. The house of Mr. Abdullah's daughter Safiya Khan, which is next door, had a black flag hoisted in protest atop the gate and an NC flag at the entrance. Hinnu Abdullah, another daughter, appealed to the government to allow Ms. Khan to visit him for providing medication. "Please do not believe any reports about Mr. Abdullah being allowed to have visitors," she said in a statement. "Even my sister, who lives next door, is not able to see him. And she is the one who helps him with all his daily medication needs. He is 83 years old," Ms. Abdullah said. The communication blockade in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has affected many students and research scholars from the State who have missed deadlines for online applications for courses and scholarships in foreign universities. A Kashmiri scientist based in the U.S. and an Indian scientist here are coordinating to help the candidates tide over the crisis amid the prolonged Internet shutdown in the Kashmir Valley. Syed Mubarak Hussain, a U.S.-based neuroscientist and the founder-director of JKScientists, a group representing over 7,000 students, scientists, and engineers from the State, said the blockade had affected the semesters in the university and colleges. Mr. Hussain said Professor L.S. Shashidhara of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) had stepped in to help many students by writing to colleges and universities. "Some students were selected by the China Scholar-



In solidarity: Kashmiri students and fellow students sit inside a mock cage to protest against the withdrawal of special status for J&K during a demonstration in New Delhi.

Scientists step in to assist students who missed deadlines

Kashmiri applicants to foreign universities face hurdles

VIJAITA SINGH NEW DELHI
The communication blockade in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has affected many students and research scholars from the State who have missed deadlines for online applications for courses and scholarships in foreign universities. A Kashmiri scientist based in the U.S. and an Indian scientist here are coordinating to help the candidates tide over the crisis amid the prolonged Internet shutdown in the Kashmir Valley. Syed Mubarak Hussain, a U.S.-based neuroscientist and the founder-director of JKScientists, a group representing over 7,000 students, scientists, and engineers from the State, said the blockade had affected the semesters in the university and colleges. Mr. Hussain said Professor L.S. Shashidhara of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) had stepped in to help many students by writing to colleges and universities. "Some students were selected by the China Scholar-

Admission was almost confirmed but they lost the opportunity due to the communication blockade
SYED MUBARAK HUSSAIN Founder-director of JKScientists

ka University. He added that once he got the details of the students from Mr. Hussain, it was easier for him to write to the institution concerned and explain the situation. Mr. Hussain said some IT companies in the Rangreth Industrial Area in Budgam district that employed more than 1,500 engineers, had decided to relocate following the communication blockade, leaving many workers on the brink of losing their jobs. "Since the students living in other parts of the country haven't been able to talk to their families and are dependent on them for finances, our organisation has helped more than 400 students financially. We collected funds from our salaries and are helping the needy," Mr. Hussain said. He said many students had missed Ph.D. entrance tests conducted by various universities and were also struggling to apply for the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering conducted jointly by the IITs and the Indian Institute of Science as the application process closes on September 23.

'Farooq's detention is India's misfortune'

Congress says political leaders who fought against militancy and separatists are being put behind bars

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
Opposition leaders have condemned the detention of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah under the Public Safety Act. Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said it was the "country's misfortune" that mainstream leaders were jailed in J&K. "I strongly condemn it. It is most unfortunate that a former Chief Minister of one of the oldest political parties in Kashmir has been detained," Mr. Azad said.

"Each Chief Minister, and each political party, be it the Congress, the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party, in Jammu and Kashmir have tried their best to fight militancy. If there is no militancy today, it is because of these political parties and not the BJP," he said. If political leaders who fought against militancy and separatists for "the unity and integrity of the country are put behind bars under the PSA, it is the misfortune of the country. I know how



Farooq Abdullah

Sabha member Asaduddin Owaisi hit out at the Centre. Where normalcy? "If you can feel threatened by a former Chief Minister and senior citizen, then what normalcy?" Mr. Owaisi asked. "And what about the claims made by Amit Shah [Home Minister] in the Lok Sabha that Farooq Sahab was not detained. Was he lying then?" Congress Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor, who had enquired about Dr. Abdullah while debating Article 370 in the Lok Sabha

last month, too pointed to the Home Minister's statement on Twitter. CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, in a tweet, criticised the arrest of Dr. Abdullah. He accused Mr. Shah of lying in Parliament. Communist Party of India general secretary D. Raja said, "The question is: how can the Centre impose a State law when they have dissolved the State and made it a Union Territory? This shows how arbitrarily the Centre is treating the Kashmir issue."



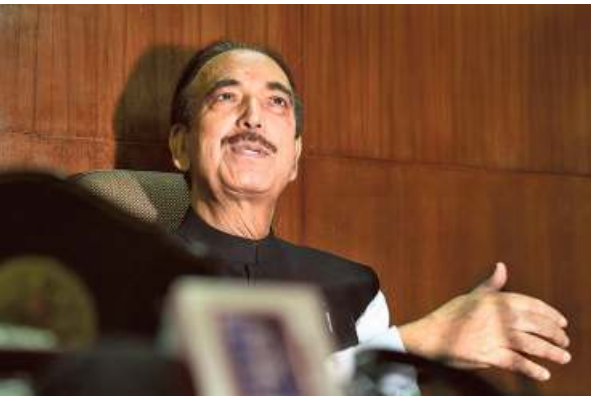
I'm 74 years young, says Chidambaram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, who on Monday turned 74, tweeted he felt 74 years young and that his thoughts were on the economy. Mr. Chidambaram is now lodged in Tihar jail on charges of corruption in the INX Media case. "I have asked my family to tweet on my behalf the following: My family have brought me greetings from friends, party colleagues and well-wishers," Mr. Chidambaram's Twitter account said. His son and Congress Lok Sabha member from Tamil Nadu, Karti Chidambaram, posted an emotional open letter where he targeted the Narendra Modi-led government. In a separate tweet, Mr. Chidambaram said: "Just one statistic tells the story. Export growth in August was -6.05%. No country has achieved GDP growth of 8% without exports growing at 20% a year. May God bless this country."

SC allows Azad to go on restricted tour of J&K

Court forbids participation in any political activity or rally

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday allowed senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad to go on a restricted tour of four districts of Jammu and Kashmir "without indulging in any political activity or rally". Before passing the order, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi had turned to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to hear the government's opinion on letting Mr. Azad travel to four districts - Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla and Jammu - to make an assessment of the impact made by the lockdown in J&K on the life of daily wage earners. But Mr. Azad, represented by senior advocate A.M. Singhvi objected strongly. "I [Azad] am a former Chief Minister of the State. I was turned back thrice in August from the airport... I do not need his permission to enter my own State," Mr. Singhvi submitted. "Where is the order saying I cannot enter my own State to enquire about the welfare of the people there?" he argued. The court issued notice to the government on his petition and sought a response



Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing the media on Monday.

in two weeks. Meanwhile, senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, for CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, submitted that his J&K party colleague, M.Y. Tarigami, was brought to Delhi on the court's order and treated in the AIIMS. The court allowed, Mr. Tarigami, if he so wished, to return to J&K. But the court refused when Mr. Ramachandran sought a direction for free movement of Mr. Tarigami in Srinagar. "We do not think that any order in this regard is required to be passed at this stage, as the same would be in anticipation of some actions on the part of the State government, which has not yet taken place. If the petitioner has any grievance in this regard i.e. movement in Srinagar, he would be free to approach the jurisdictional High Court or this Court, as advised," the court said. The Bench said Mr. Tarigami was free to approach the district authorities concerned for requisite permission to move around any prohibited or restricted parts of Srinagar. The court also kept open for a decision on the validity of his alleged illegal detention from August 5. "So many days have passed... if there is no order, please declare me free," Mr. Ramachandran submitted.

ED may open fresh probe against J&K Bank officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) plans to open a money laundering probe into two fresh cases registered by the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) against Jammu and Kashmir Bank officials and a Delhi business group for an alleged fraud involving about ₹600 crore. The ACB registered the

cases earlier this month, following a preliminary inquiry into the allegations of financial irregularities, and conducted searches on the premises of the company promoter. The ACB is investigating the loan extended to two companies of the group from 2009 to 2016. The ED had earlier taken up some other cases involving the top management of the J&K Bank.

Advertisement for Greater Visakhapatnam Smart City Corporation Limited, detailing recruitment criteria and application process.

Advertisements for National Institute of Technology Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, and NLC India Limited.

Advertisements for Department of Atomic Energy Nuclear Fuel Complex, TSRTC, Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd., and Southern Railway.



# U.S. ‘locked and loaded’ after Saudi attacks

President Trump has hinted at a potential military response to the drone strikes on oil infrastructure

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has said that the U.S. is “locked and loaded” to respond to attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure that Washington blamed on Iran, which have sent oil prices soaring.

It is the first time the President has hinted at a potential American military response to the drone attacks, which slashed Saudi oil production by half and led both the kingdom and the U.S. to announce they may tap their strategic reserves.

“Saudi Arabia oil supply was attacked. There is reason to believe that we know the culprit, are locked and loaded depending on verification, but are waiting to hear from the Kingdom as to who they believe was the cause of this attack, and under what terms we would proceed” Mr. Trump said in

a tweet late on Sunday.

On Monday, claiming that Iran told “a very big lie” in June when it said it downed a U.S. spy drone because it had violated its airspace, he tweeted: “Now they say that they had nothing to do with the attack on Saudi Arabia. We’ll see?”

The Tehran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is bogged down in a five-year war, claimed Saturday’s strikes on two plants owned by energy giant Aramco.

But U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pointed the finger squarely at Tehran.

“The U.S. will work with our partners and allies to ensure that energy markets remain well supplied and Iran is held accountable for its aggression,” he said.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Monday that the attacks on Saudi oil



Tough talk: U.S. President Donald Trump. •AFP

facilities were an act of self-defence by Yemeni rebels.

**It’s a response: Rouhani**

“Yemen is the target of daily bombings... The people of Yemen have been forced to respond, they are only defending themselves,” Mr. Rouhani told reporters in Ankara, alongside the leaders of Russia and Turkey.

Baghdad, caught between its two main allies – Tehran and Washington – denied any link to the attacks amid speculation that the drones were launched from Iraq.

Saudi de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has said the kingdom is “willing and able” to respond to this “terrorist aggression.”

## Weapons came from Iran: coalition

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
RIYADH

The weapons used to strike two Saudi oil plants were provided by the kingdom’s arch-foe Iran, the Riyadh-led coalition fighting in Yemen said on Monday.

“The investigation is continuing and all indications are that weapons used in both attacks came from Iran,” coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki told reporters in Riyadh, adding they were now probing “from where they were fired”.

“This strike didn’t come from Yemen territory as the Houthi militia are pretending,” Mr. Maliki added.

# No breakthrough in Johnson’s Brexit talks with EC’s Juncker

U.K. yet to offer any ‘legally operational’ solution on border issue

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LUXEMBOURG

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker held their first face-to-face talks on Monday, without any visible signs of a breakthrough on an elusive Brexit deal.

The European Commission (EC) said after the meeting that Britain had yet to offer any “legally operational” solutions to the issue of the Irish border, the main roadblock to a deal.

“President Juncker underlined the Commission’s continued willingness and openness to examine whether such proposals meet the objectives of the backstop” a border provision rejected by Britain. “Such proposals have not yet been made,”



Jean-Claude Juncker, left, with Boris Johnson. •AFP

the European Commission said in a statement.

Mr. Johnson said the U.K. will leave the EU on the scheduled October 31 date, with or without a withdrawal agreement. But he insists he can strike a revised divorce deal with the bloc in time for an orderly departure. The agreement made by his predecessor, Theresa May, was rejected three times by Parliament.

Mr. Johnson said in a *Daily Telegraph* column on Monday that he believes “passionately” that a deal can be agreed and approved at a summit of EU leaders on October 17-18.

While the EU says it is still waiting for firm proposals from the U.K., Mr. Johnson spokesman James Slack said Britain had “put forward workable solutions in a number of areas.”

# Solomon Islands ends ties with Taiwan

REUTERS  
TAIPEI

The Solomon Islands’ government has cut official ties with Taiwan in a new blow to President Tsai Ing-wen, who is seeking re-election in January amid rising tension with China.

Taiwan now has formal relations with only 16 countries worldwide, but China claims Taiwan as its territory and says it has no right to formal ties with any nation.

Taiwan’s Foreign Minister Joseph Wu told reporters in Taipei late on Monday that it would immediately close down its embassy in the Solomon Islands.

Mr. Wu said China was

aiming to meddle with Taiwan’s elections in January with “dollar diplomacy”.

“The Chinese government attacked Taiwan purposely before our elections, obviously aiming to meddle with the voting,” he said.

Solomon Islands is the sixth country Taiwan will lose as a diplomatic ally since Tsai came to office in 2016 – following Burkina Faso, the Dominican Republic, Sao Tome and Principe, Panama and El Salvador.

The move came after the Solomon Islands’ months-long review of the pros and cons of a switch to Beijing, which was offering \$8.5 million in development fund.

# ‘6 lakh Rohingya in Myanmar face threat of genocide’

UN mission urges UNSC to refer the country to International Criminal Court

AGENCE FRANC-PRESSE  
YANGON

Rohingya Muslims remaining in Myanmar still face a “serious risk of genocide”, UN investigators said on Monday, warning the repatriation of a million already driven from the country by the army remains “impossible”.

The fact-finding mission to Myanmar, set up by the Human Rights Council, last year branded the army operations in 2017 as “genocide” and called for the prosecution of top generals, including army chief Min Aung Hlaing.

Some 740,000 Rohingyas fled burning villages, bring-

ing accounts of murder, rape and torture over the border to sprawling refugee camps in Bangladesh, where survivors of previous waves of persecution already languished.

But in a damning report, the United Nations team said the 600,000 Rohingya still inside Myanmar’s Rakhine State remain in deteriorating and “deplorable” conditions.

“Myanmar continues to harbour genocidal intent and the Rohingya remain under serious risk of genocide,” the investigators said in their final report on Myanmar, due to be presented on Tues-



Living in terror: A Rohingya woman, who crossed over from Myanmar into Bangladesh, with her children in a camp. •AP

day in Geneva.

The country is “denying wrongdoing, destroying evidence, refusing to conduct effective investigations and clearing, razing, confiscating and building on land from

the 2017 crackdown.

The mission reiterated calls for the UN Security Council to refer Myanmar to the International Criminal Court (ICC) or to set up a tribunal, like for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

**Confidential list**

It said it had a confidential list of more than 100 names, including officials, suspected of being involved in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, in addition to the six generals named publicly last year.

The maligned Muslim community has long been subjected to tight movement restrictions, making it difficult or impossible to access healthcare, work and education.

## Turkey holds summit on Syria conflict

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
ANKARA

The leaders of Russia, Iran and Turkey met in the Turkish capital, Ankara, on Monday to discuss the situation in Syria, with the aim of halting fighting in the northwestern Idlib province and finding a lasting political solution to the country’s civil war.

“We will address first and foremost the situation on the field in Idlib, the developments east of the Euphrates, the stage reached in the political process and the issue of Syrian refugees,” Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said.

## ELSEWHERE



### N. Korea says talks with U.S. could resume soon

SEOUL

North Korea said on Monday that diplomatic talks with the United States could resume in a “few weeks,” but that it will not consider abandoning its nuclear weapons unless external threats are fully removed. •AP

### Russia deploys S-400 missiles in the Arctic

MOSCOW

Russia has placed S-400 missile defence systems at the Novaya Zemlya archipelago as Moscow seeks to increase its military presence in the Arctic, the defence ministry said on Monday. •AFP

# 218 booked in Pak. for damaging Hindu temple

Alleged blasphemy triggered rioting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KARACHI

Police in Pakistan’s Sindh province on Monday registered three cases against 218 rioters for vandalising properties, including a temple, after a school principal from the minority Hindu community was booked on charges of alleged blasphemy, according to media reports.

Widespread protests erupted in Ghotki district on Sunday after an FIR was filed against the principal of Sindh Public School on the complaint of Abdul Aziz Rajput, a student’s father who claimed that the teacher had committed blasphemy by his anti-Islam remarks.

Following the riots, protesters demanded the police to arrest the principal, who was identified as Notan Mal.

Ghotki police registered three cases against the rioters who had taken to the streets to protest against the alleged incident of blasphemy.

He also said that the protesters vandalised a Hindu temple.

An FIR was filed against 45 people under various sections of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Another FIR was lodged against 150 people for blocking roads.

A third FIR pertaining to rioting and theft was filed against 23 people.

# No double standards in dealing with protesters: Hong Kong police

They denied charges of leniency towards pro-Beijing men

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
HONG KONG

Hong Kong police on Monday denied accusations their officers showed comparative lenience towards gangs of pro-Beijing men who attacked pro-democracy supporters during a weekend marked by multiple bloody street brawls.

The once stable international hub has been convulsed by weeks of huge, sometimes violent rallies calling for greater democratic freedoms and police accountability.

On Sunday, riot police fired tear gas and water cannon at hardcore pro-democracy protesters who were



Police displayed videos of pro-democracy protesters attacking people. •REUTERS

hurling rocks and petrol bombs, capping a 15th consecutive weekend of huge peaceful rallies followed by clashes.

But there was also an up-

tick in bloody street fights.

At a press conference on Monday, Hong Kong’s police displayed videos where individuals were attacked by pro-democracy supporters, including one where a man was kicked unconscious by a mob.

But the police presentation spent little time documenting or condemning attacks by government supporters.

Videos shared online showed some officers seemingly helping government supporters protect their identities or leave the scene.

But the force denied it had exhibited any double standards.

# Will return if given chance of fair trial, says Snowden

He faces espionage charges in the U.S.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

Edward Snowden, the National Security Agency contractor living in Russia after leaking information about the U.S. government’s mass surveillance programme, has said he would like to return home if he can get a fair trial.

Mr. Snowden, who faces espionage charges, stated his desire to return to the U.S. in an interview with “CBS This Morning” on Monday. “I would like to return to the U.S.,” said Mr. Snowden, whose memoir, *Permanent Record*, is to go on sale on Tuesday.

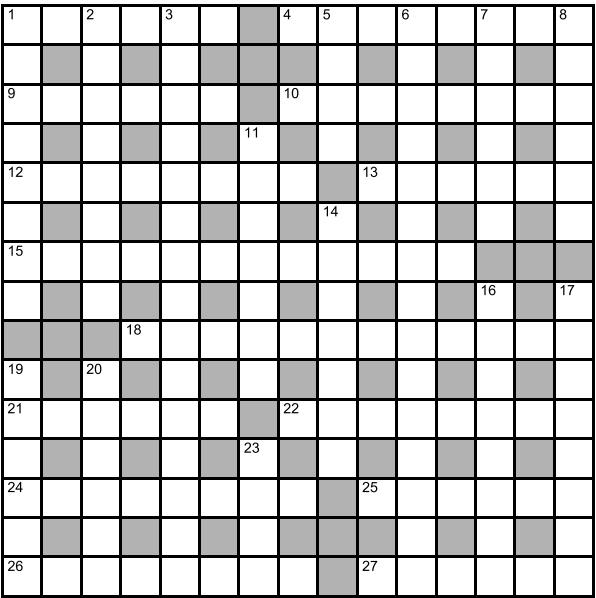
“But if I’m gonna spend the rest of my life in prison,



Edward Snowden

the one bottom line demand that we have to agree to is that at least I get a fair trial,” he said. “And that is the one thing the government has refused to guarantee because they won’t provide access to what’s called a public interest defense,” he said.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12732



### ■ ACROSS

- 1 Dark periods – start in opposite direction for tourist spots (6)
- 4 Tape to place in class (8)
- 9 Idle one gets in tow regularly (6)
- 10 Arthur gets an arm around me in exchange (8)

(set by Arden)

- 12 Painter has a head start over islander (8)
- 13 Movie called ‘Country’ (6)
- 15 Record playing, too much delay makes one sad (12)
- 18 Correct, let the wobble be seen as being unfair (5,3,4)
- 21 Sponge rings break in half, perhaps (6)
- 22 Daughter finds a way to cut onion, as a rule (8)
- 24 Crazy to combine drugs (8)
- 25 Moped, half-heartedly for getting duck (6)
- 26 No direct effect on Philosophy (8)
- 27 Sell by assuming different rate (6)

### ■ DOWN

- 1 Trouble outside, left inside for privacy (8)
- 2 Huge cats prowling, not the most elegant (8)

- 3 Drunk guy left in the rear, runs – he must keep his balance (9,6)
- 5 Line below central lawn is crooked (4)
- 6 For example 9 elect rich characters to take up an impossible task (6,3,6)
- 7 Take a leak after a peg in tent (6)
- 8 Fulfills initial expectation, leads to growing respect (6)
- 11 Instrument will swell up, as small becomes twice as large (7)
- 14 Time to assume tail wagging means happiness (7)
- 16 In other words is termed as a coalescer (8)
- 17 Fish will remain outside ring, perhaps (8)
- 19 Quiet rise in medical practice (6)
- 20 Pattern of a plant disease (6)
- 23 Said to be good in France, capital in Germany (4)

## SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12731								
C	O	N	S	T	A	N	T	I
E	R	U	N	Y	I	A	S	
N	I	G	E	R	A	R	R	O
G	I	N	S	E	L	O	H	I
N	I	G	E	L	E	I	D	O
M	L	O	O	F	S	U	B	M
F	L	I	A	L	I	N	E	
E	N	T	R	A	N	C	E	D
R	I	O	S	T	E			
O	I	T	R	N	H	T	A	
B	U	C	H	A	R	E	S	T
E	K	F	C	O	S	O	A	
D	A	V	O	F	A	T	I	O

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku								
4	7	6	9	3	8	2	1	5
5	1	8	7	4	2	3	6	9
3	9	2	5	6	1	4	7	8
2	5	7	3	8	6	1	9	4
8	4	1	2	7	9	5	3	6
6	3	9	4	1	5	7	8	2
9	6	4	1	2	3	8	5	7
1	2	5	8	9	7	6	4	3
7	8	3	6	5	4	9	2	1

## FAITH

### Karma Yoga

When one commits wrong actions against the virtuous and holy beings, knowingly or unknowingly, it is known as Sadhu Apachara. This is the main cause of human misery, says the Bhagavata purana and many narratives illustrate the consequences arising from this lapse and also show how to atone for such sins. The righteous Parikshit commits a sin and he undergoes prayaschitta for this by listening to Suka’s narration of the Bhagavata Purana. The tendency to commit wrongs is inbuilt in human nature as all beings are held under the spell of Maya. Maya includes karma, habits, tendencies and actions. These prevent one from nearing God, and realising his own atma swaroopa. It is by working out one’s karma according to the law of one’s nature that one can hope to overcome this spell and proceed towards enlightenment, pointed out Swami Paramasukananda in a discourse. The world is so complex and wonderful and each being is endowed with faculties and senses with which an individual is constantly interacting. Every human birth is occasioned by karma; and it is karma that can help one to nullify its effects. Both good and bad are very much part of life. Just as snake venom extract is used to purge the effect of snake bite, karma becomes the effective path to overcome samsara. This happens when karma is converted into karma yoga. What is the gain one should expect from one’s actions in life? With single pointedness one has to dedicate every moment of one’s life for God’s sake and try to avoid being self-centered and worldly minded. This is the way to attain the long term end which is salvation. The Pandavas always had Krishna as their friend and guide. And call upon people to dedicate everything only for God’s sake. One may be a grihasta or a recluse. But the focus has to be God at all times.



MARKET WATCH		
	16-09-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,123	-0.70
US Dollar	71.60	-0.96
Gold	38,860	1.2
Brent oil	67.74	12.10

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	370.60	-3.60
Asian Paints	1521.30	-26.90
Axis Bank	670.90	-3.35
Bajaj Auto	2874.45	-3.75
Bajaj Finserv	7280.25	-108.50
Bajaj Finance	3418.85	-8.50
Bharti Airtel	344.00	0.95
BPCL	380.00	-28.55
Britannia Ind	2715.05	40.45
Cipla	470.50	1.50
Coal India	200.55	2.35
Dr Reddys Lab	2725.30	-6.25
Eicher Motors	16764.30	74.90
GAIL (India)	129.70	0.45
Grasim Ind	716.70	-0.85
HCL Tech	1069.90	1.40
HDFC	2046.75	-37.10
HDFC Bank	2244.15	-13.30
Hero MotoCorp	2738.65	-37.95
Hindalco	200.40	0.05
Hind Unilever	1816.30	10.75
Indiabulls HFL	435.25	-7.00
ICICI Bank	412.15	-1.25
Indusind Bank	1375.95	-22.65
Bharti Infratel	251.95	-2.45
Infosys	827.70	-1.60
Indian OilCorp	128.55	-1.55
ITC	239.40	-0.50
JSW Steel	225.65	-0.55
Kotak Bank	1474.95	-9.30
L&T	1343.60	-19.85
M&M	536.95	-14.30
Maruti Suzuki	6412.75	-37.55
NTPC	123.25	-0.80
ONGC	130.70	1.85
PowerGrid Corp	202.15	-0.50
Reliance Ind	1210.75	-14.85
State Bank	284.70	-7.00
Sun Pharma	426.80	3.95
Tata Motors	128.60	-0.95
Tata Steel	361.10	-6.25
TCS	2150.00	8.05
Tech Mahindra	719.45	9.95
Titan	1148.55	25.15
UltraTech Cement	3992.85	-38.30
UPL	564.10	-14.05
Vedanta	148.65	-0.65
Wipro	247.10	1.75
YES Bank	67.05	-1.50
Zee Entertainment	344.95	-5.55

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 16		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.39	71.71
Euro	78.79	79.14
British Pound	88.83	89.24
Japanese Yen (100)	66.26	66.56
Chinese Yuan	10.10	10.15
Swiss Franc	72.05	72.38
Singapore Dollar	51.95	52.19
Canadian Dollar	53.86	54.11
Malaysian Ringgit	17.14	17.21
Source:Indian Bank		

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
September 16 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	50.3	(50.9)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3620	(3612)

# Fuel prices may rise by up to ₹5 a litre

Drone attack on Saudi Aramco's facility to impact prices; refining margins to come under pressure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Prices of petroleum products like petrol and diesel are likely to go up by up to ₹5 a litre each over the course of the next few days as international crude oil prices shot up after the drone attack on Saudi Aramco's facility at Abqaiq. Benchmark Brent crude prices were up by over \$6 at \$67 a barrel on Monday, which is a jump of over 10%, and could rise further.

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) will have to increase the retail product prices in a fortnight.

Besides, the sharp jump in global crude prices may also put pressure on refining margins amid slowing demand, increasing the OMCs' prospects of making losses. "We do not rule out the



Red zone: Oil marketing companies may have to increase retail product prices in a fortnight. ■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

possibility of moderation in marketing margins on auto fuels – a \$10/per barrel rise in global crude and product prices may require OMCs to increase retail price of diesel and gasoline by ₹5-6/litre in

the following fortnight," said Kotak Securities in a research note to its clients.

Shares of Indian refiners closed in the red on the BSE during Monday's trade. Bharat Petroleum Corporation

Limited (BPCL) closed down 7% to ₹380.10, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) lost 5.7% ending at ₹255.55, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) closed down 3% to ₹188.75, while Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Reliance Industries (RIL) lost 1.15% and 1.20% respectively.

## Oil output drops

Following the drone attack on its oil processing facility at Abqaiq, Saudi Aramco has cut down its oil production by 5.7 million barrels per day (mbpd).

This has reduced global oil supply by 6%, which is huge. However, this will not result in a physical shortage of oil for India.

The real impact for India will be the rise in prices.

"The \$6-7 per barrel increase in oil prices has an immediate impact on India. Based on past experience, if the price of oil crosses \$70-75 per barrel, the government may start thinking of bringing back the administered pricing mechanism," Amit Bhandari, fellow for energy and environment at Gateway House, an Indian think tank on foreign policy, told *The Hindu*.

Meanwhile, an Air India official said a 10% rise in the cost of aviation turbine fuel adds ₹50 crore to its monthly fuel bill.

He added that while there would be no immediate effect, if the situation persisted, all airlines would be forced to raise fares.

(With inputs from Jagriti Chandra)



On slippery path: The benchmark Sensex shed 900 points during the pre-open session. ■ PAUL NORONHA

# Stocks slide on crude oil concerns

BPCL worst-hit, sheds more than 7%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

A surge in global crude prices following drone attacks on oil facilities at Saudi Arabia made equity investors jittery on Monday with the benchmark Sensex shedding 900 points during the pre-open session.

While stocks across sectors lost ground, the worst hit were oil marketing majors as crude prices jumped almost 10% amid concerns relating to a fall in global supplies.

The benchmark indices, however, recouped most of the losses and many mid-cap and small-cap stocks even gained ground.

The 30-share Sensex, which fell to 36,485 during the pre-open session, settled the day at 37,123.31, down 261.68 points, or 0.70%. The broader Nifty managed to close at 11,003.50, shedding 72.40 points, or 0.65%.

## Geopolitical risks

"Geopolitical risks have come to fore once again," said Gaurav Dua, head, capital market strategy and investments, Sharekhan.

The drone strikes have added to trade war-related uncertainties

GAURAV DUA head, capital market strategy and investments, Sharekhan

"Over the weekend, the drone strikes on Saudi's oil processing facilities have added to the trade war-related uncertainties and deteriorated market conditions globally. Moreover, Indian economy also gets impacted due to surge in crude oil prices," he added.

The BSE Oil & Gas index was the worst performer of the day, shedding 1.61%. BPCL was the worst-hit, losing over 7% while HPCL and IOC were down 5.70% and 1.15% respectively.

The effect of the surge in crude prices was visible on airline stocks with Inter-globe Aviation and SpiceJet losing in the range of 2-4% each. Jet Airways lost a marginal 0.27%. Among the Sensex pack, SBI, M&M and Yes Bank lost over 2% each while stocks like RIL, L&T, Indusind Bank, Tata Steel, HDFC and Asian Paints lost between 1-2% each.

# Digital certificate of origin system unveiled

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal also launches steel import monitoring system

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

In continuation of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcements on Saturday to revive the export sector, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal launched the common digital platform for the issuance of certificates of origin and a steel import monitoring system (SIMS).

Mr. Goyal also provided more details about the enhanced export credit insurance scheme for banks that lend working capital to exporters. Regarding the SIMS, Mr. Goyal sought to allay concerns that this would be a licensing system, adding it was merely a tool to capture information about steel imports.

"The new export credit insurance scheme will be called 'Nirvik,' Mr. Goyal told the media. "At the moment, the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) gives a cover of 60% of the



Piyush Goyal

loss to banks. The new scheme will give 90% coverage of the principal and interest of the loan for pre- and post-shipment credit, and half of this will be provided in 30 days."

He said claim inspection would be waived for up to ₹10 crore. For claims higher than this amount, inspection of bank documents and records by ECGC officials will be mandatory. The previous limit for document inspection was ₹1 crore.

Mr. Goyal added that the existing premium rate would

be lowered, and loans categorised into two broad categories of those below ₹80 crore and those above that amount. Loans above ₹80 crore will be further divided into those that are not for gold, jewellery or diamonds, and those that are.

"The benefit to banks from this increased cover is that this is in effect a credit enhancement scheme," Mr. Goyal said. "The rating for the bank loans to exporters becomes AA due to this enhanced insurance cover."

Mr. Goyal added the public sector banks had agreed to give the ECGC-covered loans at a rate that is a maximum of 2.2% higher than the prevailing repo rate, and this would be adjusted as the repo rate changes.

"As you know, for exports to countries with which India has free trade agreements (FTA), exporters have to show a certificate that the consignment originated in

India," Alok Chaturvedi, the Director General of Foreign Trade, added. "With the launch of the common digital platform for the issuance of certificates of origin, now, these certificates can be obtained online and all the issuing authorities will be on the same portal."

Mr. Chaturvedi said India was speaking to its trading partners and the countries it had FTAs with to ensure they accepted the digital certificates.

"We have received complaints from officials that collecting data on what grade of steel was being imported, how much was being imported, from where, and what the domestic market potential is quite difficult at the moment," Mr. Goyal said.

"I want to assure the export community that the SIMS is not a licensing mechanism, and that nobody will be stopped from importing."

# Lenders led by KKR may take control of fraud-hit CG Power

KKR converts exposure in CG Power to a 10% stake

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Lenders led by private equity firm KKR are tightening their grip on fraud-hit CG Power and Industrial Solutions as KKR has converted its exposure in CG Power from trust to a direct stake of 10%.

KKR along with L&T Finance Holdings, owns about 21.63% stake in the company through Vistra ITCL India Limited, after they invoked a pledge of shares by the Avantha Group in March 2019.

"KKR has converted its exposure in CG Power from trust to a direct stake of 10% and L&T Finance Holdings is likely to do the same same," a source in the know of the development told *The Hin-*

du. KKR India Debt Opportunities Fund II and KKR India Financial Services bought over 6.26 crore shares, or about 10% stake, in CG Power from Vistra ITCL (India) Ltd. at an average price of ₹14.25 apiece, amounting to a total of ₹89.31 crore, as per the latest bulk deal data on the NSE.

Asked for comments, a KKR spokesperson in a statement said, "KKR India Financial Services Limited and KKR India Debt Opportunities Fund II have, in exercise of their rights in respect of credit facilities extended to Avantha Holdings Limited and its subsidiary Salient Financial Solutions Limited and through the enforcement of pledges created by

Avantha Holdings Limited, respectively acquired 50,736,588 and 11,938,021 equity shares of CG Power and Industrial Solutions Limited through a transaction on the stock exchange. This translates into a total percentage of 9.9999992% – just under 10%."

Yes Bank holds 12.79% and Sunil Bharti Mittal 8.5% stake in the company through through Bharti (SBM) Holdings Private Limited. "There are talks among the parties to bring the stakes of KKR, L&T Finance Holdings, Yes Bank and Bharti (SBM) Holdings Private Limited together to have majority holdings in CG Power," said another source.

# RCom arm files for Chapter 11

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Global Cloud Exchange (GCX), an arm of Anil Ambani-led Reliance Communications (RCom), has filed for bankruptcy protection in the U.S. after it failed to pay \$350 million on its 7% bonds that matured at the beginning of August.

A Reliance Group spokesperson confirmed that GCX along with other associates filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection at the Delaware court.

GCX owns one of the world's largest private undersea cable systems.

GCX parent RCom, with a debt of ₹46,000 crore, has already filed for bankruptcy in India under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code laws.

# Amazon India expects 'bigger and better' festive sales this year

With wider choices, hopes to bring 100 mn more on board

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Not seeing any slowdown in consumer demand, Amazon India expects this year's festive sales to be "bigger and better" than last year on the back of increased number of sellers and products offered.

The e-commerce firm, which on Monday announced its festive sale 'Great Indian Festival' from September 29 to October 4, saw the number of sellers going up to 5 lakh from about 3.8 lakh a year ago, while selection has grown to 200 million products from 170 million last festive season.

"The Great Indian Festival is important for us to bring the next 100 million custom-



Manish Tiwary

ers online, many of them from tier 3 or even tier 4 towns," Manish Tiwary, vice president - Category Management, Amazon India, said.

"So far, we have covered first 100 million... so for the journey forward to reach the next 100 million customers in India we are getting a whole new selection, invest-

ing in deliveries, ease of return... all this is part of this effort," Mayank Shivam, director, Category Management, Amazon Fashion India, told *The Hindu*.

"We are confident that numbers will be great. We are very excited and buoyant about this Diwali...confidence comes from number of sellers and the range they are offering...it will definitely be bigger and better than last year. There is no doubt about... all the momentum we have seen, that this will be our biggest Diwali," Mr. Jain said.

Amazon's rival Flipkart had earlier announced that it will host its flagship 'The Big Billion Days' sale from September 29 to October 4.



# A spread of bling

The mother-in-law and daughter-in-law team behind fashion label Twenty Nine is blending traditional weaves with contemporary cuts



• PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

When Sangita Gupta says she was 52 when she enrolled herself at Central St Martins, London to study fashion, the response she gets is ‘wow’. And when she adds that she attended that college with her daughter-in-law Rhea, the look of surprise on most faces always makes her smile. She has begun to enjoy those reactions now, admits the entrepreneur on a recent visit to Chennai as part of the Armoire pop-up.

Sangita and Rhea are co-creators of the Delhi-based designer label Twenty Nine, that was launched in October 2017. Back then, they had no formal training in fashion – the label was born out of their sheer love for good clothes and crafts. “To keep up with the market, we went to London to study earlier this year,” says Sangita. Even though they signed up for different courses, they would head to university together in the morning. After class, they would go to different stores, looking at materials, cuts and patterns that they had learned about during the course of the day. “It was such a pleasure to interact and exchange ideas with young minds. And all of them called me by my name,” smiles Sangita.

The Guptas knew that they wanted to offer traditional weaves in contemporary cuts. The result: asymmetrical tunics, backless jackets, palazzos, *shararas*, dhoti pants, shirts and capes in resplendent *bandhini*. “We initially started only with *bandhini*. Now, we



work with *qirakh*, *patola* and mirror-work, with the latest being pleated *bandhini*,” says Sangita.

One look at Twenty Nine’s mirror-work collection is proof enough that despite being new entrants, this duo knows a thing or two about understated bling. On canvases of solid black, beige and white, mirrors recreate the aura of, say, a Sheesh Mahal. From an opulent black bell-sleeved jacket that can double up as sari blouse, to white georgette palazzos that are a trusty companion with kurtas, tunics and tops, each of these pieces can be styled in multiple ways.

“We specifically tell our clients not



to wear the clothes just one way. Wear them in at least four different styles.”

Most of the other collections is for now dominated by *bandhini* in stunning colour combinations, some specially created for Twenty Nine, like the grey and red shirt with diagonal button detail, the anti-fit capes in white and red and black and blue... They also work a lot with *rai dana* crushed *bandhinis* in silk. Their latest addition sees a fusion of two types of *bandhini* – a single fabric plucked into small and large bindings – in the form of fitted tops in primarily black with small white dots and large red spots. Most of the garments have little detailing in the form

**Tied to tradition** (Below) Rhea and Sangita and (left) a model in their creations  
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

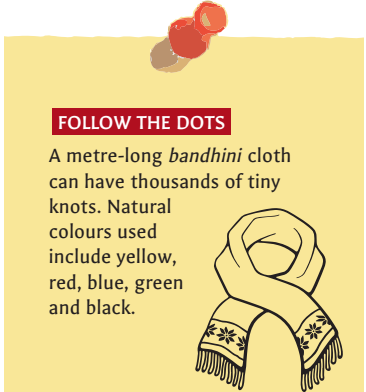
of tiny beads along the neck and the sleeves.

**Credit where due**

Though Sangita and Rhea have a penchant for the crafts and are quick learners, Sangita is quick and lavish in her praise for the craftsmen they work with. The search for master craftsmen took them to Gujarat. “We did a road trip to a few clusters and saw artisans making lovely stuff. But they were getting ripped off by the middlemen. At that point our idea was to help them sustain their art and craft,” she says. Eventually, they want to incorporate craft forms from all the states in the country.

Their garments, for the most part, are anti-fit, so they can compliment most body types and cater to wearers across all age groups. Sometimes, their greatest joy is to see three generations of a family shopping from them. She shows a photograph, sent to her by a client, in which the grandmother, daughter and granddaughter are all in the same outfit but in different colours. Meanwhile there have been numerous enquiries from men as well. “For now, it is only *patola* pocket squares for them,” she smiles.

*Twenty Nine is stocked at Aza, Ogaan, Taj Khazana and is available online on its website Twentynine.co*



#DELHIMOVES

# The tricky business of organising a race

Race directors reveal the work that goes in long before you’ve crossed the finish line



**Running ecosystems** Policing and road closures can deter troublemakers during a run  
• SHIV KUMAR PUSHKAR

• GAGAN DHILLON KULLAR

Organising a run, a cycling event, or a triathlon takes skill, plenty of smarts and the knack of ‘getting things done’. As Chiro Mitra, a veterinarian surgeon and the founder of Let’s Run Gurgaon puts it, “You’ve got to be the engine that pulls the train.”

A decade or so ago, Delhi-NCR didn’t have many outdoorsy, sporty events for leisure athletes. Regular runners like Rahul Verghese, the founder of Running and Living in Gurugram, brought the athletic culture to the city. “Back then we wanted to build a community and making running fun. Running groups sprung up because it

wasn’t safe to run alone, especially for women. Gradually, the network spread, growing into a whole ecosystem of running—training, recovery and competition,” says Rahul.

Today, social media makes it easy to spread the word but for many organisers the biggest worry is gaining the break-even number of participants. Organisers need to recover the costs of medals, T-shirts, hydration and recovery aids besides that of securing necessary permission. The registration cost takes all these expenses into account. Sponsorship and the scale of the event decide this cost.

Volunteers are the backbone. They help manage traf-

fic, hydration, and recovery stations. They do the legwork of bib and T-shirt distribution pre-event and later they help tabulate race results and organise medal distribution.

A major concern for an organiser is safety. Chiro himself has had a close call while on a run aboard. A hit-and-run cost him an eye and an injured leg that had to be operated upon. “Setting a safe route is essential. Also 40% of our participants are women. Policing and road closures along the route can go a long way in deterring troublemakers,” he says.

Getting sufficient support is not easy. Organisers have to jump hoops for permission and clearance. “Securing in-

frastructural support for security and traffic management is challenging especially for small-scale events,” says Rahul.

Organisers also wish that the sporting culture would spread through society, so people at all levels understand what it means to have a race begin or end, at, say India Gate. “Abroad organisers utilize their iconic landmarks. The London Marathon ends at Tower Bridge with a runner’s greet at Horse Guards in Westminster. The New York Marathon ends at Central Park. It would be nice to see that happen at here,” says Adil Nargowala, Gurugram-based Ironman.

After all that, sometimes

## BEHIND THE SCENES

- STEP 1:** Organisers identify a date in accordance with the kind of race and terrain, local festivals, national holidays, weather, travel distances, at least four months before the event
- STEP 2:** They create a core team and distribute responsibilities
- STEP 3:** They identify a venue
- STEP 4:** They chalk out the route and measure the distances
- STEP 5:** They involve local administration and police
- STEP 6:** They tie-up with a local hospital
- STEP 7:** They introduce the race by way of a write-up
- STEP 8:** They sell tickets
- STEP 9:** They arrange for volunteers, preferably young people from local schools and colleges with an interest in sports
- STEP 10:** They arrange for medals and certificates, and keep in mind a feel good factor for the participants post event, such as a foot massage, and plan for them
- STEP 11:** They strategise the race day: where to and how far to put water stations and signage
- STEP 12:** They make sure there’s a clean-up at the venue and on the race route post event
- STEP 13:** They tabulate results

they deal with people who cheat. “People get impersonators. They may take a short cut. Or ask a friend to close to the finish,” says Adil. So timing mats also function as check points. Disqualification is guaranteed if an athlete skips a timing mat. And if an odd discrepancy in time and distance is discovered, that too is flagged. At a duathlon organised by Chiro, a participant who had won a podium spot in her category was

banned for life following a complaint. “When we compared the event pictures of the athlete. We saw that instead of a woman, a man was running with that bib,” he recalls.

To have a safe, fun, and memorable experience, these professionals strongly recommend that prospective participants research the organiser thoroughly. Speak to fellow athletes when you sign up for a race.

## PEOPLE

### Nobel Prize tales

In India for the Nobel Prize Series 2019, Laura Sprechmann, Nobel Media AB CEO, hopes to inspire a generation of bright minds



• ALEXANDER MAHMOUD

A three-day event by the Nobel Prize organisation that travelled to three cities including Mohali and Ludhiana ended last week in New Delhi on Friday, after Nobel Peace Prize recipient Kailash Satyarthi visited St. Thomas School in the city, to interact with middle school students, largely delivering what Laura Sprechmann, CEO for Nobel Media AB, called an “inspirational” talk. Before wrapping up their India outreach in 2019 – it comes as a lead up to the Nobel announcements, which will be made starting October 7th – Sprechmann talked about this year’s outreach, its purpose, and the point of the Nobel Prize Museum’s new exhibition in Punjab that’s come up as part of this series. Edited excerpts.

**Can you talk about Kailash Satyarthi’s participation in Nobel Prize Series 2019 in India?**

The first day in Mohali, his interactions were about awakening the interest and passion for learning. I liked very much when he talked about the three D’s: Dream, Discover, and Do. You have to be able to think big, you have to have the curiosity to learn, to seek knowledge for following your interest, and also put a lot of work into it by taking action. Another thing that is important in what Kailash Satyarthi said, was the human element to education – learning compassion. Learning is not only about reading, math, or geography. It’s also about human rights, about how to treat others, about being a person in society that respects other human being. That wholeness in learning is also one of the important messages he conveyed.

**Take us through what you did in Mohali and Ludhiana**

What we did in Mohali was mainly an interaction with teachers. At the same time, we inaugurated an exhibition as well, called ‘For The Greatest Benefit To Humankind’, which looks into thematic areas representing four of humanity’s biggest challenges: saving lives, feeding the world, protecting the planet, interacting in a digital world. The idea is to see how we have coped with these challenges, and how have Nobel Prize awarded discoveries have helped us move forward. What happens then is that the students see that the Nobel Prize is not an abstraction and these people are no superheroes, that many of their basic discoveries have led to big breakthroughs that enable us to live longer. Then, in Ludhiana, we were at the Punjab Agricultural University, where Juleen Zeerat – a [Swedish American] professor in Clinical Integrative Physiology and member of the Nobel Committee at the Karolinska Institute – had a lecture and roundtable [discussions] with university faculty and students as well.

**Tell us a little more about the museum in Mohali and its curators**

It was curated by a team at the Nobel Prize Museum in Stockholm. We will be inaugurating a similar exhibit in Stockholm in early October (perhaps by the 4th of the month). The one in Mohali is actually the world premiere of the travelling exhibition.

*The exhibition will be open till October 11th, at the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Sector 81, Mohali*

## PRODUCT

### Made-to-order mylks

Nut & Bowls, Delhi’s first vegan cafe, has introduced Almond Mylk on their menu. Produced in-house, it is a raw and plant-based alternative to milk, in glass bottles of 300 ml each. It is available in flavours of hazelnut, cinnamon, pistachio and coconut. The cafe also has Vegan Gluten-free cookies, Almond-quinoa and coconut-oatmeal breads, and Rawtella, which is a vegan Nutella infused with organic Cacao.



*Available at their cafe M-70, Ground Floor, M Block, Greater Kailash 2; upwards of ₹180*

Contact us at [delhimetro@thehindu.co.in](mailto:delhimetro@thehindu.co.in)

## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



### LECTURE

**Literature**

Former Vice-Chancellor of Ashoka University, Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta will deliver a lecture titled ‘The Self Not Taken: Identity, Tradition and Ethics in the work of Kunwar Narain’. This is part of ‘Remembering Kunwar Narain’, a series of programmes to remember the well-known poet, writer and thinker, organised by the IIC.

**VENUE:** C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC  
**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.



### FOOD

**New menu**

Guppy, a restaurant that specialises in Japanese cuisine, has introduced a new set-lunch menu. This menu comes with a choice of a main dishes accompanied by soup, salad, sushi, rice or noodles with matcha tea. The offerings include Grilled Tofu Steak with Asparagus set; Grilled Tomato and Scamorza set; and more.

**VENUE:** 28 Lodhi Colony, Main Market,  
**TIME:** 12 noon - 3:30 pm



### EXHIBITION

**Mixed-media**

National Institute of Fine Arts has organised its 14th annual art exhibition titled Urge at AIFACS. Curated by artist Renu Khera, the collection of paintings showcases more than 120 artworks in various mediums by 55 upcoming artists and diploma students. The works depict Indian mythology, religious thoughts and culture.

**VENUE:** AIFACS, 1, Rafi Marg  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



### GOURMET

**Special dish**

Gravity Space Bar, multi-cuisine restaurant, has recently added a new dish in its menu called Palak Patta Mille Feuille, which is essentially a rich cake consisting of thin layers of spinach, filled with Greek yogurt, and topped with dollops of *aloo bhurji*. The item is served with mint sauce and *imli* chutney.

**VENUE:** Plot 6 & 7, Sector 29, Gurugram  
**TIME:** 12 noon - 12 midnight



### WORKSHOP

**Organic tea making**

Chef Vanshika Bhatia of Together At 12th and the store Jaypore, are jointly conducting a workshop to create delectable high-tea menu, with healthy and organic ingredients. The activities include making quick pickles, mini sandwiches using seed bread, delicious salted berry yogurt, muesli tart, and more.

**VENUE:** Jaypore Store, Greater Kailash-I  
**TIME:** 12 noon-2 p.m and 2:30-4:30 p.m.





**Tech for thought** (Clockwise from far left) Robosea's shark bot; C-exoskeleton; Yobotics' robot puppy; Royole's FlexiPai and Yangzhou Zhiying's robot bartender • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



# Disruption, down to the detail

Drones of the sea, robotic bartenders and exoskeleton technology — here are our highlights of futurism exhibited at the vibrant Taobao Maker Festival in Hangzhou, China

SWETA AKUNDI

If you get lost at the Taobao Maker Festival — which you might, considering it is held at the Hangzhou Boiler Factory in Hangzhou, spread across six grounds, featuring over 1,000 products — look for the black tree. Paper-thin foldable screens fluttering from its branches, the tree marks the beginning of the Tech zone.

The festival, organised annually by the Alibaba Group to encourage innovators and shift from a 'made in China' tag to 'designed in China', has six zones: Technology, Chinese culture, Gen-Z trends, Design, Food and Creativity. "Every year, the Tech zone has always got the most attention. The passion for innovation here is strong, especially in the younger generation," says Chris Tung, Chief Marketing Officer, Alibaba.

Each zone differs in its design as well as background music — technology is awash in a futuristic blue, with robots, Artificial Intelligence and wearables (watch out for 3D printed sneakers and colour-changing shirts)

getting the lion's share of the pie. Here are five innovations that stood out at the Taobao Maker Festival.

### Underwater exploration

Swimming with sharks can be fun, if done at Robosea's exhibition. The underwater robotics company displayed products such as the Roboshark, BIKI, and the Sea-flyer. As one of the team members, clad in a bathing suit, enters the makeshift pool holding the robot shark, the crew explains, "This is an underwater robot which can be customised for research purposes, like monitoring the water quality and ocean engineering. It can identify a target and move towards it. It could be paired up with other devices such as a mechanical arm, for greater functionality."

The Robo-shark's motion is bionic — it moves by imitating the three-joint tail fin movements instead of using a propeller. This increases speed and reduces noise. Its shell is also made out of sound-absorbing material for easier disguise.

The diver swimming with this

shark is accompanied by the BIKI robot fish, which we are told, "is like an underwater drone for the sea." It can take pictures underwater, move 360 degrees, and avoid obstacles.

### The true Iron Man

Wangchao dropped out of university to start C-Exoskeleton Technology — all because of his fascination with bringing Tony Stark's Iron Man to life. At the Taobao Maker Festival, he displays the result of this passion: a body suit that helps him lift a 1.2-tonne car through pneumatics.

"I built this exoskeleton to help with logistics, mainly for people working in warehouses. They repeat similar movements again and again, so the exoskeleton will help reduce injuries," says Wangchao.

Wearing the exoskeleton like a backpack, he straps on the gloves attached by an elastic cord, and begins to hoist a barbell, after explaining, "The back contains the energy section of the equipment, and it pulls the gloves towards itself, reducing human effort."

But why exoskeletons, when machines can do the same work? "In China, manpower is cheap. So we have a lot of workers. An exoskeleton would be the middle-ground option to increase efficiency while keeping costs low," he says. A self-proclaimed fan of Elon Musk, he adds that the exoskeleton was a small part in his long-term goal to improve human efficiency.

### The future is foldable

There is a lot of buzz about Samsung Galaxy Fold, set to be relaunched later this year. However, Royole got there first last year with FlexiPai, the first foldable phone. Despite opening up to middling reviews by the tech community, there's something to be said about Royole's work in thin, flexible and wearable

screens.

Here at the festival, the company has put up, along with other displays, a tree with wearable screens hanging down its branches. These screens can be worn on a shirt, or hats, or added on to bags and other accessories. "They can be worn by dancers and performers, or they can be used in advertising and PR," says Tiffany Lyu, Senior Business Development Manager at Royole.



The writer was in Hangzhou, China at the invitation of Alibaba Group

## POOCH CAFE



## PEANUTS



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## CALVIN AND HOBBS



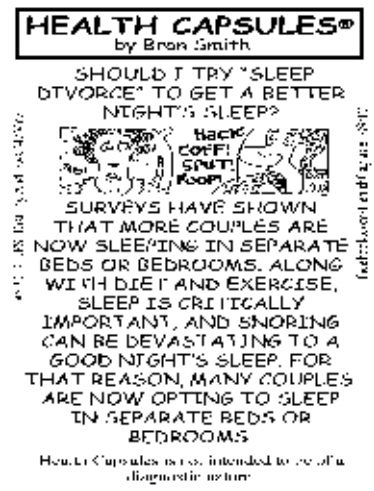
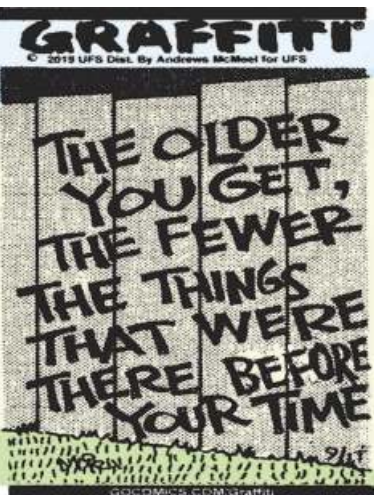
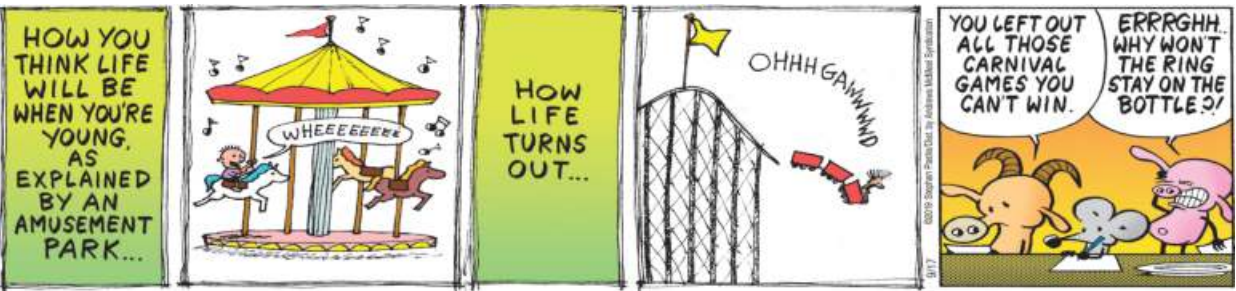
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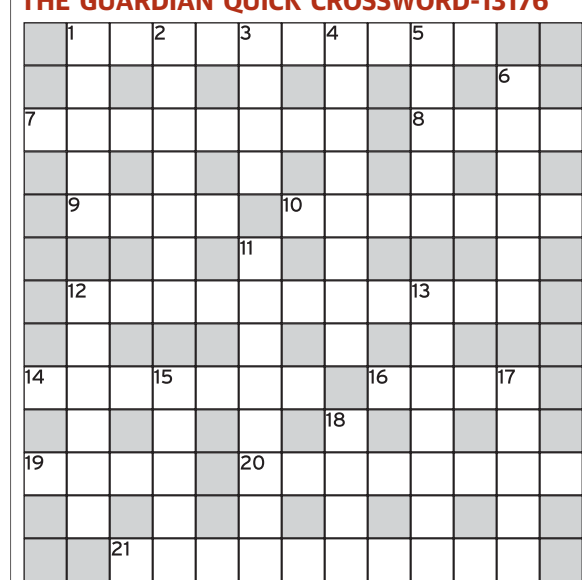
## WUMO



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13176



- etc (10)  
Down  
1 Royal domain (5)  
2 Laugh without restraint (5,2)  
3 Murder (2,2)  
4 Regard with reverence (8)  
5 Graceful lass (5)  
6 Fawn (6)  
11 Adipose tissue disappearing in adolescence (5,3)  
12 Unfortunate person (6)  
13 Follower (7)  
15 Full-length (5)  
17 Yellowish-brown (5)  
18 Three together (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated September 18, 2019.

Solution No. 13175

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1 Criminal backslider (10)  
7 From Honolulu? (8)  
8 Ancient Greece harp (4)  
9 Device for converting sound waves to an electronic signal (abbr) (4)  
10 Depository for records and documents (7)  
12 Line of cloud following an aeroplane (6,5)  
14 Rough strong cider (7)  
16 Solicit(or) (4)  
19 Metallic element, Zn (4)  
20 Three fourteens (5-3)  
21 Pens, pencils, paper



# Rishabh Pant faces a serious reality check in white-ball cricket

The wicketkeeper-batsman has not done enough to justify the think-tank's faith

SA IN INDIA

**RAKESH RAO**  
MOHALI

The rained-off opener in the three-match T20 series at Dharamshala means India and South Africa have one opportunity less to test their new recruits.

Besides the lesser-known names waiting in both the dugouts to come good this week at Mohali and Bengaluru, one man eager to change the current narrative is Rishabh Pant.

Rebuked by coach Ravi Shastri for his “rash stroke selection” in crunch situations, the 21-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman is facing some serious reality check in white ball cricket.

Pant realises that depending on the result of the shot he attempts, opinions get reinforced.

One among the few playing all three formats, Pant is yet to firm up his place. Since Pant made an impression during the IPL before

making it to the Indian team, he is considered most suited for the 20-over game.

**Story of inconsistency**  
However, going beyond reputation, Pant's statistics in the shortest format tell a story of inconsistency. In 17 innings, Pant has 10 single-digit scores.

Pant's highest of 65 not out at Providence, in his previous outing in the Ca-

ibbean, came after a dismal sequence of 3, 1 (against Australia), 0 and 4 (against the West Indies).

Clearly, Pant has not done enough to justify the faith of the team's think-tank. When playing a match-winning role, any stroke-maker looks good.

Pant is no different. But sometimes, when he gets it wrong and departs in trying to slog the first ball he faces,

criticism is equally quick to follow.

**Shastri not pleased**  
No wonder, Shastri expressed his displeasure recently by pointing out Pant's first-ball dismissal in the ODI at Trinidad last month, to illustrate the point.

Indeed, Pant's inconsistency was not missed by the team even in the euphoria that follows his rare, ram-paging knocks.

Much like Virender Sehwag at the start of his international career around two decades ago, Pant, too, has delighted and disappointed his fans in almost equal measure.

Many experts feel, given the youngster's mind-set and free-stroking approach to the challenges of modern-day cricket, no serious corrections are needed.

When the going is good, Pant becomes the best advertisement of batsmanship in white ball cricket. But his inconsistency has the po-

tential to seriously hurt the team. For the record, Pant has an average of 44.35 in Tests, 22.90 in ODIs and just 21.57 in T20s.

The sustained faith of the National selectors on Pant, in all three formats, seems to have almost slammed the door on the future of the more experienced duo of Wriddhiman Saha in Tests and Dinesh Karthik in ODIs.

Time needed

No one questions Saha's superior 'keeping skills and Karthik's steady head in crunch situations.

Pant surely needs time to mature and that seems to be the reason behind the selectors' persistence.

Even in T20 or ODIs, many feel Pant stands to gain much from the calming presence of M.S. Dhoni, if available.

For now, the youngster is all by himself. Before it's too late, he has to find ways of contributing more to the team, and not playing to the galleries.



Talented, but... Rishabh Pant needs to put his head down and make sure to put a price on his wicket. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

## BCCI accepts Karthik's apology



Dinesh Karthik. ■ FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday accepted India wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik's unconditional apology for violating a clause of his central contract by watching a Caribbean Premier League match from the team's dressing room.

Karthik tendered an “unconditional apology” for violating BCCI's central contract clause by watching a Caribbean Premier League game from the Shah Rukh Khan co-owned Trinbago Knight Riders' dressing room.

“The BCCI has accepted Dinesh Karthik's apology and the matter is now a closed chapter,” a Board official said.

## FIR filed against two for ‘match-fixing’ attempt

ACU chief says action taken after a leading women's cricketer alerted the unit

SHAYAN ACHARYA  
MUMBAI

The Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has registered a First Information Report (FIR) against two individuals – Rakesh Bafna and Jitendra Kothari – at the Ashok Nagar Police Station in Bengaluru for an alleged attempt of match-fixing and cheating.

According to the FIR, Bafna had approached one of the prominent members of India's National women's team (name withheld on request) earlier this year, offering her a huge amount of money if she joined hands with them.

The incident happened in February, ahead of the limited-overs series against England – which was part of International Cricket Council (ICC)'s World Championship.

“Today, we have got an FIR registered against two people in Bengaluru. The FIR pertains to an approach that was made to one of the women cricketers of the team. She reported the approach to us and even re-

corded the conversation she had with one of the accused over the telephone,” BCCI ACU chief Ajit Singh told *Sportstar*.

Modus operandi

Kothari – who claimed to be a sports manager – got in touch with the cricketer last year through Instagram, offering her managerial services. After a few weeks, he couriered a copy of a contract, but the player could not sign it since she was touring with the Indian team. However, the cricketer decided to not sign the contract later.

In February this year, Kothari again contacted the player and put her through Bafna – claiming he had a business offer for her. At that time, the player was at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru, undergoing recovery sessions.

“Kothari was trying to sell himself as the manager of various women cricketers. It was he who introduced Bafna to the player. He approached her to fix matches and play according to the script,” Ajit said. It has been

learnt that Bafna offered the player ₹1 lakh per match during the India-England series. Bafna – who hails from Odisha – also requested the player if the ODI captain of the team could also be roped in for the ‘plan’.

“Initially the call was made via WhatsApp and Bafna said that endorsement would be for a noted Indian clothing brand. But soon, he directly approached her to fix matches. The player told him that there was a bad connection and he could call her on her regular number,” Ajit said.

Recorded conversation

On realising that things were fishy, the cricketer recorded the conversation and reported the matter to BCCI's ACU.

Since the incident happened before an ICC event, the ICC anti-corruption unit got into business. After investigation, it observed that “Bafna took advantage of Kothari's ineptitude and the player had rightly made a report of the approach. Bafna was warned for his action and reported to the BCCI and ICC.”

## ‘My goal is to perform well in every match’

I'm not the sort to feel bad about losing my spot in the team, says Saha



On the ball: Wriddhiman Saha is just focused on doing well for India-A. ■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

ASHWIN ACHAL  
MYSURU

Wriddhiman Saha had to bide his time when M.S. Dhoni was shining bright. It was only in 2014 when the latter retired from Test cricket did the door open for Saha to make his name as India's first-choice wicketkeeper.

Saha flourished on the big stage, until a hamstring injury ruled him out of the second Test in South Africa in January 2018. A few more injuries followed, forcing him out of action for more than a year.

While Saha watched from the sidelines, Rishabh Pant established himself as an exciting wicketkeeper-batsman.

Remains positive

The setback could have broken most sportspersons, but Saha remained positive. “When I was sitting out, I didn't feel sorry for myself or carry any negative thoughts.

“The physio told me that if I was 20, I would have recovered in quick time. But I was 33, so it would naturally take a longer time for me to recover. I kept that in mind, and I just tried to enjoy my training,” Saha said.

“Some of my friends and family were upset that I was forced out when I was play-

ing well, but I'm not the sort to feel bad about losing my spot in the team. Right from my childhood, I've carried a positive outlook,” he added.

Huge step

The Bengal cricketer took a huge step towards resurrecting his international career a couple of months ago, when he was named as one of two 'keepers in the Test squad for the West Indies tour, alongside Pant.

Saha didn't get a game in the Caribbean, but that didn't stop him from helping out his teammates.

“Fielding coach R. Sridhar and I gave some tips to Pant. He knows what to do, but we gave him a few suggestions to help him out,” said Saha, the captain of India-A in the second ‘Test’ against South Africa-A here.

Pant's poor shot selection on the tour, however, came in for criticism from coach Ravi Shastri and some former players.

“My goal is to perform well in every match I play, so that if the opportunity comes to play for the Indian team, I will be ready. But for now, I'm focused on doing well for India-A here in Mysuru. I don't think too far ahead,” Saha said.

## Allegations of fixing surface in TNPL

CONTROVERSY

TNCA has constituted a panel to look into the charges

S. DINAKAR  
CHENNAI

There are serious questions being asked about the Tamil Nadu Premier League. And they travel to the heart of the competition itself.

Is the league clean? Or, are some cricketers dirty? Have there been any instances of match or spot-fixing in this Twenty20 competition last season?

Right now there is an investigation by the BCCI's Anti Corruption Unit (ACU) to probe into the allegations. Apparently, the ACU has some evidence on a few players and coaches but it remains to be seen if that would be enough to nail them.

LS in panel

The TNCA, stung by the allegations, has constituted a panel to look into the charges. The committee includes former cricketers such as L. Sivaramakrishnan.

And P.S. Raman, chairman, TNPL governing council, said the tournament had zero tolerance towards corruption in the game.

Right from the first year of the TNPL, in 2016, there have been reports of attempts by some bookies to infiltrate the league. Now, the issue has developed into

a full-blown crisis for the TNPL.

Allegations, in particular, have been made against a First Class batsman with a penchant for attacking cricket, a top-order southpaw with loads of experience, and a coach who was a fine left-hander in his time. A couple of lesser-known coaches, one without any First Class experience, are also under a cloud.

At this moment, these are nothing more than allegations. The ACU needs to meticulously collect evidence, if there are any, and build a

case against them. It is also possible that these men are innocent and victims of circumstances. Time will tell.

A franchise, with a questionable ownership pattern and rather dubious selection of its XI for the various games, is under the microscope too. The side has fallen into bad days after a rousing beginning.

Security issues

While the security at the TNPL venues during the games is tight – there are four ACU officers present – many are of the view that the

## No international player involved: ACU chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The BCCI's ACU chief Ajit Singh has ruled out the possibility of any international player being a suspect.

“Some players have reported that they received WhatsApp messages from certain unknown people.

“We are trying to find

out who those people are. We have recorded the statements of the players and will try to track the senders of the messages,” he told reporters here.

“There is no international player... any player who has got the message, he is supposed to report it to us, it's part of his obligation,” he added.

access to the players in the low key hotels in the districts is rather easy.

It is here that some dubious deals, potentially, could be done. There is thus a need for tight security at the hotels. Right now, they are porous.

Some cricketers have been approached through WhatsApp messages. And many of them have been reported by the cricketers to the ACU.

There is also an urgent need for the TNCA to increase the fee to the cricketers in the TNPL. Right now, an international cricketer receives only ₹5 lakh for the entire tournament and the others get less.

And the TNCA has to find a better revenue-sharing model for the TNPL so that the franchises do not lose money and resort to desperate measures.

## South Africa-A looks to bounce back

Karun Nair has been brought into the India-A squad

SA-A IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL  
MYSURU

South Africa-A will look to put on an improved show against India-A in the second and final ‘Test’ here, after the poor seven-wicket loss suffered in the first outing.

Though the visiting team is packed with quality players – Aiden Markram, Zubayr Hamza, Dane Piedt and Lungi Ngidi, to name a few – the performance was not up to the mark.

The home side, meanwhile, has three players – Wriddhiman Saha, Shubman Gill and Kuldeep Yadav – who are part of the senior Test squad to take on South Africa.

The trio will look to put up big numbers in their push to seal spots in the playing XI in the Tests.

Saha to lead

While Gill made a crucial 90 in the first ‘Test’ at Thiruvananthapuram, Saha and Kuldeep did not feature in the match.

Saha replaces Gill as captain for this fixture.

Karnataka batsman Karun Nair, who was in good touch in the Duleep Trophy, has been brought in.

Pacer Umesh Yadav has



That's the way: Umesh Yadav gives tips to Mohammed Siraj at a practice session in Mysuru on Monday. ■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

also been included, and will share the fast bowling duties with Mohammed Siraj and Avesh Khan.

The teams (from):

**India-A:** Wriddhiman Saha (Capt.), Priyank Panchal, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Shubman Gill, Anmolpreet Singh, Karun Nair, K. Gowtham, Jalaj Saxena, Kuldeep Yadav, Shahbaz Na-

deem, Vijay Shankar, Shivam Dube, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Siraj and Avesh Khan.

**South Africa-A:** Aiden Markram (Capt.), Theunis de Bruyn, Zubayr Hamza, Lungi Ngidi, George Linde, Pieter Malan, Eddie Moore, Senuran Muthusamy, Marco Jansen, Dane Piedt, Wiaan Mulder, Heinrich Klaasen, Lutho Sipamla and Khaya Zondo.

## Ganguly skirts Kohli vs Smith debate



Sourav Ganguly. ■ PTI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Monday preferred not to get into the debate of who is a better batsman: Virat Kohli or Steve Smith?

“These are questions not to be answered. How does it matter? It's about performance. Virat is the best in the world at the moment. So that's what makes us happy,” said Ganguly on the sidelines of an event.

On Smith, Ganguly said, “His record speaks for itself. 26 Test hundreds is a phenomenal record.”

About the ongoing India-South Africa series, Ganguly said India would be hard to beat at home.

Asked about his ambition of coaching India some day, Ganguly said it would be better to wait for the present coach, Ravi Shastri, to finish his stint.



TV PICKS

**Asian TT championships:** SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 8.30 a.m. & 5.30 p.m.  
**World wrestling:** Sony Ten 3 & Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 4 p.m.  
**UEFA Champions League:** Sony Ten 2 & Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.

Purcell stops Myneni

**SPORTS BUREAU**  
KAOHSIUNG, CHINESE TAIPEI  
Saket Myneni was unable to capitalise on a good start and was beaten 3-6, 6-1, 6-3 by Max Purcell of Australia in the first round of the \$162,480 Challenger tennis tournament here on Monday.

Piatek penalty gives AC Milan a win

**REUTERS**  
MILAN  
AC Milan's Krzysztof Piatek returned to the starting lineup and got the winner for a hard-fought 1-0 victory at 10-man Hellas Verona in Serie A on Sunday.  
Verona debutant Mariusz Stepinski was shown a straight red card for a high boot after 21 minutes.  
**The results:**  
**La Liga:** Valladolid 1 (Hervias 65) drew with Osasuna 1 (Ibanez 81); Betis 1 (Joaquin 73-pen) drew with Getafe 1 (Mata 15-pen).  
**Serie A:** Verona 0 lost to AC Milan 1 (Piatek 68-pen).

European women regain Solheim Cup

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
GLENEAGLES  
Europe regained the Solheim Cup with a thrilling 14.5-13.5 victory over the USA here on Sunday.  
Norwegian wildcard Suzann Pettersen holed the winning putt in the last match on the course, making a birdie on the 18th to

BKSP will hope to defend title

SUBROTO CUP

**ANANT KAUR**  
NEW DELHI  
Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Pratihthan (BKSP) will hope to defend the title against Hopewell Elias Secondary School, Meghalaya, in the boys' under-17 final of the Subroto Cup international football tournament's Diamond Jubilee edition at the Ambedkar Stadium here on Tuesday.  
In semifinals on Monday, Hopewell Elias defeated BSL (+2) High School, Jharkhand 3-2 while BKSP and Gorkha Rifles Regimental Centre were involved in a 1-1 draw. BKSP won 5-4 on penalties.  
Bobby L. Nongbet, coach, Hopewell School, felt it will be a good match against BKSP as it is a much stronger team.  
"It will be very interesting to play against them. In the last few months, the boys worked very hard together. They have been training very well and tried to put in their best performance.  
"They have done very well so far and I feel they are rightly in the final. I believe they will be able to deliver to

Phenomenal Cruise wins Chief Minister's Cup

**HYDERABAD:** D. Netto-trained Phenomenal Cruise (Zervan astride) won the Chief Minister's Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Monday (Sept. 16). The winner is the property of M/s. P. Ranga Raju, C. Nanda Kumar & K. Ramakrishna.  
**1 SWAMY RAMANANDA TIRTHA PLATE** (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): **FLAMBOYANT LADY** (A. Sandesh) 1, Alliston (Akshay Kumar) 2, Unstoppable (Zervan) 3 and Angel Tesoro (P. Sai Kumar) 4. Not run: Flying Queen. 2-1/4, 1-3/4 and 3/4. Im, 12.56s. ₹8 (w), 5, 5 and 6 (p), SHP: 14, FP: 17, Q: 13, Tla: 31. Favourite: Flamboyant Lady. Owner: Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: Satheesh.  
**2 HERITAGE PLATE** (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40- to 65 (Cat.

Stokes, Archer promise bright England future

Great chance to take the game forward in the country: Root

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
LONDON

Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer promise a glittering Test future for England but Joe Root's men have work to do if they are to replicate their World Cup success in the five-day game.  
Their summer threatened to finish with a whimper going into the final Ashes Test at the Oval before a comprehensive victory over Australia levelled the series at 2-2.  
Captain Root said after the win on Sunday that he was "desperate" to take the team forward, and is already looking ahead to the 2021-22 Ashes in Australia. "What a summer of cricket it's been," he said. "I think a huge success for English cricket and I think we've got a great opportunity now to spring the game forward in this country."  
He described the Oval victory as a blueprint for the future, saying England had the foundations in place for long-term success. "That's got to be our main focus, going down there (Australia) and winning and every Test between that is an opportunity to push your case."  
Stokes, who lit up the Ashes with a mesmerising 135 not out in England's one-wicket win in Leeds, would walk into any team in international cricket.

World Test Championship (WTC) standings

Team	M	W	L	D	Pts
India	2	2	0	0	120
New Zealand	2	1	1	0	60
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	0	60
Australia	5	2	2	1	56
England	5	2	2	1	56
West Indies	2	0	2	0	0

*Note: South Africa, Pakistan and Bangladesh are yet to play a Test in the WTC*

The Ashes numbers

Player	Mat	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100/50
Smith	4	7	774	211	110.57	64.71	3/3
Stokes	5	10	441	135*	55.12	57.05	2/2
Burns	5	10	390	133	39.00	43.52	1/2
Labuschagne	4	7	353	80	50.42	51.01	0/4
Wade	5	10	337	117	33.70	58.30	2/0

Player	Mat	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Ave	SR	5w
Cummins	5	10	29	4/32	19.62	43.6	0
Broad	5	10	23	5/86	26.65	45.6	1
Archer	4	8	22	6/45	20.27	42.5	2
Hazlewood	4	8	20	5/30	21.85	48.4	1
Lyon	5	10	20	6/49	33.40	72.7	1

Archer is at the start of his Test career but has already shown he can be a phenomenal weapon for England, taking 22 wickets in his first four matches at just over 20.  
Sending down 95-per-hour thunderbolts, he gives the attack a new dimension.  
"He has a way of having a huge impact on the game," Root said of Archer. "You saw his spell here, the way it

just changed the whole atmosphere of the ground was incredible. For someone right at the beginning of his career to have such a gift is entertaining."  
Despite Root's optimism, there are questions over a number of other positions in the side in both batting and bowling, with the skipper admitting there were "conversations" to have.

Ruchita pulls off a coup

SHOOTING

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN**  
NEW DELHI

Ruchita Vinerkar of the Railways pulled off a coup, as she climbed to the top spot after qualifying in the eighth place, and beat qualification topper Shri Nivetha by 0.8 point in women's air pistol in the sixth National Shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, here on Monday.  
Shri Nivetha led by 0.7 point before the last four shots in the final. However, Ruchita came up with 10.5 on the next two shots to take a 0.9 point lead. On the last two shots, it was a bit of an anti-climax owing to the low scores by both the shooters, Ruchita had 18.6 to 18.7 by Shri Nivetha, which saw her prevail with the earlier lead.  
Ruchita had booked a place in the final by pipping Harveen Srao 16x to 14x after the two had tied on 570. In fact, Priya Raghav also had the same score and a

better score of inner-10s at 18x.  
The 582 that she shot in qualification, which was six points better than the next best, should do a world of good to the averages for Shri Nivetha, who had been part of the national team but had lost her place owing to intense competition.  
Shikha Narwal took the third place ahead of Yuvika Tomar, who went on to take the second place among the juniors behind Aadhya Tayal. Shikha herself won the youth competition, with a 5.3 point margin over Kanishka Dagar.  
**The results: Men: 25m centre fire pistol:** 1. Yogesh Singh 582; 2. Pankaj Yadav 578; 3. Arpit Goel 578.  
**Women: 10m air pistol:** 1. Ruchita Vinerkar 237.6 (570); 2. P. Shri Nivetha 236.8 (582); 2. Shikha Narwal 216.8 (573).  
**Juniors:** 1. Aadhya Tayal 242.8 (576); 2. Yuvika Tomar 235.0 (573); 3. Kanishka Dagar 216.7 (568). **Youth:** 1. Shikha Narwal 242.4 (573); 2. Kanishka Dagar 242.4 (568); 3. Sharvari Bhoir 217.9 (569).

Prithviraj Tondaiman tops Manavjit Sandhu

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Prithviraj Tondaiman had a resounding 48-43 victory over former World champion Manavjit Singh Sandhu in trap in the recently concluded 12th Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Masters shotgun championship in Bhopal.  
**The results:**  
**Men: Trap:** 1. Prithviraj Tondaiman 48 (121); 2. Manavjit Singh Sandhu 43 (120); 3. Manavadiya Singh Rathore 34 (119).  
**Juniors:** 1. Vivaan Kapoor 120; 2. Manavadiya Singh Rathore 119; 3. Sourabh Goriya 109.

**Skeet:** 1. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa 56(4) 120; 2. Anantjeet Singh Naruka 56(3) 119; 3. Mairaj Ahmad Khan 45 (121).  
**Juniors:** 1. Rituraj Singh Bundela 55 (113); 2. Abhay Singh Sekkhonn 53 (116); 3. Bhavtegh Singh Gill 43 (113).  
**Women: Trap:** 1. Rajeshwari Kumari 39 (113); 2. Shreyasi Singh 38 (117); 3. Soumya Gupta 33 (110).  
**Juniors:** 1. Preeti Rajak 37 (107); 2. Manisha Keer 34 (116); 3. Varda Sharma 27 (108).  
**Skeet:** 1. Ganemat Sekkhon 56 (116); 2. Darshna Rathore 55 (117); 3. Zehra Mufaddal Deesawala 43 (112).

**4 DYNAMIC DANCER PLATE** (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **BAYWATCH BABE** (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Running Fire (Kiran Naidu) 2, Smurry (Ajesh Kumar) 3 and Latest News (B. Nikhil) 4. 1/2, hd and 1-1/4. Im, 14.04s. ₹74 (w), 15, 5 and 12 (p), SHP: 17, FP: 326, Q: 137, Tla: 1994. Favourite: Man Apart. Owners: M/s. Harinath Reddy Teegala, Amarnath Reddy Teegala, K.S.N. Murthy & Shailendra Singh. Trainer: Prasad Raju.

**5 CHIEF MINISTER'S CUP** (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, (Cat. I), (Terms): **PHENOMENAL CRUISE** (Zervan) 1, Wave Rider (A. Sandesh) 2, Be Sure (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Corfe Castle (Akshay Kumar) 4. 1/4, nk and 1/4. Im, 37.78s. ₹22 (w), 6, 5 and 8 (p), SHP:

14, FP: 114, Q: 45, Tla: 462. Favourite: Corfe Castle. Owners: M/s. P. Ranga Raju, C. Nanda Kumar & K. Ramakrishna. Trainer: D. Netto.

Gymnasts' participation at Worlds doubtful

FIG snubs ministry as the tussle for control of gymnastics in India continues

**UTHRA GANESAN**  
NEW DELHI

The tussle for control of gymnastics in India shows no signs of abating, resulting in uncertainty over the gymnasts' participation at the upcoming World Championships.  
The selection trials for the same were held on Monday at the Indira Gandhi Stadium here with a six-member squad – three men and women each – finalised. However, their participation in the October 4 to 14 event remains doubtful.  
While the Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI) continues to be de-recognised, the international body

(FIG) continues to back one of the factions as the authorised representative of the sport in the country.  
The ministry had written to FIG explaining its stand and the formation of a committee by the IOA to oversee selection trials, but the latter refused to play ball.

**Not empty words**  
"We would like to stress that 'good governance and 'fairness in sport' are not empty words for us but something we constantly fight for. We have tried to support GFI and help resolve their internal problems which seem to be never ending.  
"We have threatened GFI

twice to suspend them should they not organise elections in time," FIG secretary general Nicolas Buampane wrote on Saturday.  
"The GFI, headed by Sudhakar Shetty, has been charging money for selection and nomination of athletes for competitive events and indulging in rampant favouritism.  
"The stand taken by FIG is leading to protection and encouragement of malpractices, mis-governance and unethical practices by Shetty," the ministry had written to FIG through its joint secretary Inder Dhamia last week. "I am sure the FIG believes in good governance

and fair practices by members NSFs.  
"You are requested to take a holistic view and allow the committee formed by IOA to carry out selection trials. Shetty and GFI would attract penal action under the law in the event they use India flag or show the team representing India," the mail further warned.  
Going by the FIG response, however, the last of this battle has not been heard.  
**The World championships squad: Men:** Ashish Kumar, Yogeshwar Singh, Aditya Singh Rana.  
**Women:** Pranati Das, Pranati Nayak, Aruna Budda Reddy.

Anannya beats Jaeah

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Anannya Bhatia recovered from a slow start to beat third seed Jaeah Lee of Korea 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the girls' first round of the Asian under-14 Grade-A junior tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Monday.  
**Other results (first round): Boys:** Rushil Khosla bt Atulya Atri 6-1, 6-2; Manas Dhamne bt Arnav Kokane 6-3, 6-1; Arunav Majumder bt Abhiraj Singh Mohil 6-2, 6-2; Yuvan Nandal bt R. Senthil Kumar 6-2, 7-5; Amirali Ghavam (Iri) bt Arnav Paparkar 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; Samar Malhotra bt Victor Mohanram 6-1, 6-3; Parag Jain bt Manuraj Singh 6-3, 6-1; Ayushmaan Arjeria bt Jasmeet Duhan 6-1, 6-1; Artin Nazari (Iri) bt Atharva Patel 6-2, 6-1.  
**Girls:** Maria Breidy (Lbn) bt Vamika Sharma 6-0, 6-0; Nandini Dixit bt Kinjal Singh 6-2, 6-2; Samiksha Dabas bt Ratna Sahasra Srigiri 6-0, 6-0; Maisha Rao bt Diya Tamse 6-0, 7-5; Anannya Bhatia bt Jaeah Lee (Kor) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Djokovic opens season in Brisbane

Nadal gets Perth, Federer Sydney

ATP CUP

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
SYDNEY

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic will begin his 2020 season in Brisbane, Rafael Nadal in Perth and Roger Federer in Sydney after Monday's draw for the ATP Cup, the new world tennis team event.  
The championship, which will take place from January 3-12 in the lead-up to the year's first Grand Slam – the Australian Open in Melbourne – will feature 24 nations split into six groups across Sydney, Brisbane and Perth.  
Eight teams – with up to five players each – will emerge from the round-robin stage to compete in the knockout phase in Sydney.  
Most of the world's top 30 men will take part, with ties comprising two singles and one doubles. The final five nations in the ATP Cup

standings, based on the ranking of their number one singles player, will be determined by the second entry deadline of November 13.  
"We're delighted to see such a star-studded player field lining up for the inaugural ATP Cup," ATP Executive Chairman and President Chris Kermode said.  
"Having the top players competing in this new global event is critical, and the ATP Cup looks set to kick off the ATP Tour season in a big way in 2020," said ATP Executive Chairman and President Chris Kermode.  
**The groupings:**  
**Group A (Brisbane):** Serbia, France, South Africa +1; **Group B (Perth):** Spain, Japan, Georgia +1.  
**Group C (Sydney):** Switzerland, Belgium, Britain +1; **Group D (Perth):** Russia, Italy, USA +1; **Group E (Sydney):** Austria, Croatia, Argentina +1; **Group F (Brisbane):** Germany, Greece, Canada, Australia.



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